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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

4TH APRIL, 1979

SURGICAL NURSING

Time allowed: Three hours

Important:—

Read the questions very carefully.

Answer only what is asked as no marks will be given for irrelevant material.

ALL questions are compulsory.

1. A man, sixty (60) years of age, has been admitted to the ward with head injuries due to a motor car accident. He is deeply unconscious, but has no other apparent injuries. He has an endotracheal tube in situ and is on assisted ventilation.
- (a) Describe the management of his airway. —[9 marks]
 - (b) What are the likely orders regarding his fluid administration in the first 24 hours and give the reason for your answer. —[1 mark]
 - (c) Describe the subsequent nutritional management while the patient is unconscious. (Include in your answer the route of administration, caloric requirements, nutrient constituents and fluid volume.) —[4 marks]
 - (d) How are limb deformities prevented? —[3 marks]
 - (e) (i) In what type of head injury would leakage of cerebro-spinal fluid occur? —[1 mark]
 - (ii) State one (1) complication of cerebro-spinal fluid rhinorrhoea. —[1 mark]
- [19 marks]
2. A middle-aged man is admitted to the ward suffering from an acute embolism of the femoral artery.
- (a) What symptoms and signs are likely to be present? —[5 marks]
 - (b) How is the affected limb cared for prior to the patient's transfer to theatre for embolectomy? —[5 marks]
- [10 marks]

3. Mr. Bryant is admitted to the ward with prostatomegaly and is to undergo prostatectomy in 2 days time.

- (a) For what reasons may he have sought medical assistance? —[3 marks]
- (b) Why is it necessary to investigate renal function pre-operatively? —[1 mark]

A trans-urethral resection is performed under a spinal anaesthesia and Mr. Bryant returns to the ward with a 3-way Foley catheter in situ and a continuous bladder irrigation.

- (c) What specific care would be given because of spinal anaesthesia? —[2 marks]
- (d) Describe the management of the bladder irrigation and drainage. —[4 marks] —[10 marks]

4. A 4-week-old male infant is admitted to children's ward with a diagnosis of congenital hypertrophic pyloric stenosis.

- (a) What is meant by "hypertrophic pyloric stenosis"? —[1 mark]
- (b) What are the signs of this condition? —[3 marks]
- (c) Describe the specific pre-operative treatment necessary. —[2 marks]
- (d) A Rammstedt's operation (pyloroplasty) is performed. Briefly describe this procedure. —[1 mark]
- (e) State the principles of post-operative nutritional management. —[3 marks] —[10 marks]

5. Mrs. Oakley, 25 years of age, is admitted with severe blood loss due to incomplete abortion.

- (a) Define incomplete abortion. —[2 marks]
- (b) List five (5) symptoms and signs which may be evident. —[5 marks]
- (c) Following dilation and curettage of the uterus, name three (3) complications which could become evident. —[3 marks] —[10 marks]

6. You have just removed alternate sutures as ordered by the doctor from a middle-aged female patient who had a laparotomy and bowel resection 8 days ago. You are just making her comfortable when she has a coughing fit and experiences a burst abdomen.

- (a) State the local and general factors which may have predisposed to this condition. —[4 marks]
- (b) How would this emergency situation be managed? —[5 marks] —[9 marks]

7. Define the following terms:—

- (a) eschar —[1 mark]
- (b) gas gangrene —[1 mark]
- (c) gastrostomy —[1 mark]
- (d) flail chest —[1 mark]
- (e) dysphagia. —[1 mark] —[5 marks]

8. (a) A young man has sustained a chemical burn to his left eye. What first aid would be given, indicate reasons. —[3 marks]

- (b) Describe the treatment of corneal foreign bodies. —[6 marks] —[9 marks]

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9. A jockey has been kicked by a horse and sustains a compound fracture of his right tibia and fibula.

(a) What is meant by:—

- (i) compound fracture, —[1 mark]
(ii) comminuted fracture? —[1 mark]

(b) Why is a compound fracture regarded as a tetanus prone wound? —[1 mark]

(c) This patient has previously received prophylactic immunisation against tetanus, but requires further immunisation.

- (i) What substance and dosage will be given? —[1 mark]
(ii) What type of immunity will this produce? —[1 mark]

—[5 marks]

10. A baby is born with a meningomyelocele.

(a) What anatomical abnormality is involved in this condition? —[1 mark]

(b) Hydrocephalus and neurogenic bladder are two (2) conditions which may accompany spina bifida. State what the underlined terms mean and outline the surgery to relieve them. —[4 marks]

(c) What neurological defect is often present with meningomyelocele? —[1 mark]

—[6 marks]

11. What term is used to describe the following:—

(a) prolapse of the urinary bladder into the vagina, —[½ mark]

(b) air in the tissues, —[½ mark]

(c) twisting of the bowel, —[½ mark]

(d) a malignant condition of connective tissue, —[½ mark]

(e) discharge from the ear, —[½ mark]

(f) operation for repair of deviated nasal septum? —[½ mark]

—[3 marks]