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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

**REGISTRATION EXAMINATION—(GENERAL NURSES)**

**SURGICAL NURSING**

**3rd JUNE, 1981**

- (6) On admission to hospital the fracture was reduced and the arm supported in a "collar and cuff" sling. The fractured limb was to be closely observed for the next 24 hours. Describe the action to be taken in the event of weakening of ORE's pins distal to the fracture. — [4 marks]
- (7) Describe the specific complications which could arise due to failure to carry out indicated action. — [2 marks]

— [10 marks]

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Nurses Act 1958

## Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

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### SURGICAL NURSING

#### SECTION B

**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 middle-aged lady has been admitted for an incisional biopsy of a lump in her left breast.
- (a) State two (2) pre-operative investigations which would be carried out after admission. —[1 mark]
  - (b) State the area of skin which should be prepared. —[2 marks]
- Following biopsy a radical mastectomy is performed.
- (c) Describe the following aspects of the post-operative management of this patient.
    - (i) position in which this patient should be nursed following recovery from anaesthesia. —[2 marks]
    - (ii) care of wound and drain tubes. —[10 marks]—[15 marks]
2. After undergoing thoracotomy for lobectomy, a patient has an underwater seal drainage established.
- (a) Why is underwater seal drainage necessary? —[2 marks]
  - (b) In what position would the patient be nursed after recovery from anaesthesia? —[1 mark]
  - (c) How would the position be maintained? —[2 marks]
  - (d) Describe the care of the underwater seal drainage apparatus. —[6 marks]
  - (e) Outline the instructions and assistance which should be given to the patient to enable him to breathe deeply and to cough, during the post-operative period. —[3 marks]
- [14 marks]
3. Greg, a child aged 5 years, sustains a supracondylar fracture of the elbow as a result of falling from a playground swing.
- (a) Describe the specific first aid care which would be given at the scene of the accident. —[4 marks]
  - (b) On admission to hospital, the fracture was reduced and the arm supported in a "collar and cuff" sling. Greg's fractured limb was to be closely observed for the next 24 hours.  
Describe the action to be taken in the event of weakening of Greg's pulse distal to the fracture. —[4 marks]
  - (c) Describe the specific complication which could arise due to failure to carry out indicated action. —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]

4. (a) State two (2) reasons for performing a tracheostomy. —[2 marks]  
 (b) State two (2) important signs of acute respiratory obstruction in a patient with a cuffed tracheostomy tube in position. —[2 marks]  
 (c) State four (4) important points in the care of a tracheostomy with special reference to the use of a cuffed tube. —[4 marks]  
 (d) List two (2) specific complications of tracheostomy. —[2 marks] —[10 marks]

5. (a) List the clinical features which would lead you to suspect that a patient in your care is suffering from a perforated peptic ulcer. —[2 marks]  
 (b) The patient returns to your ward following oversewing of the perforation combined with vagotomy and pyloroplasty. Briefly explain the reasons underlying the procedure of vagotomy and pyloroplasty. —[2 marks]  
 (c) Outline the management of the gastrointestinal tract which is commonly ordered until normal peristalsis has returned. —[4 marks]  
 (d) Outline two (2) important points in the health education of the patient prior to his discharge from hospital following recovery. —[2 marks] —[10 marks]

6. John, aged 15 years, has had concussion following a fall from his bicycle. He has had a period of observation in Casualty and is to be allowed home.

Prepare an easily understood list of instructions so that John's parents will know how to care for him during the next few days and so they will know when they should seek medical aid.

—[6 marks]

7. You are caring for a patient who is having a blood transfusion. What is the importance of the following?

(a) Grouping and cross-matching of blood prior to transfusion. —[2 marks]

(b) Regulation of the transfusion drip rate to run slowly in a patient with chronic anaemia. —[2 marks]

(c) The occurrence of the following symptoms and signs:—

loin pain,  
 headache,  
 hypotension,  
 pyrexia,  
 tachycardia.

—[1 mark]

—[5 marks]