

3795. ~~8~~9A

**REGISTRATION EXAMINATION—(GENERAL NURSES)**

**SURGICAL NURSING**

**1st JUNE, 1983**

# VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

*Nurses Act 1958*

## Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

1ST JUNE, 1983

### 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 married woman has been admitted to hospital to undergo a left mastectomy.
- (a) What investigations may be done:—
- (i) to confirm the diagnosis of a malignant tumour in the breast;
  - (ii) to look for metastatic spread before surgery? —[2 marks]
- (b) Outline the nursing management of this patient post operatively, using the following headings:
- (i) position —[2 marks]
  - (ii) care of the wound and drain tubes —[3 marks]
  - (iii) exercises and ambulation. —[3 marks]
- (c) Briefly state the psychological effects this type of operation may have on this patient. —[4 marks]
- [14 marks]
2. The aims of bladder care in a patient following prostatectomy are to prevent clot retention and to prevent infection.
- (a) What nursing activities would be employed, to achieve these aims? —[5 marks]
- (b) What would suggest that the patient may be developing clot retention? —[3 marks]
- (c) What nursing actions may be necessary should the patient develop clot retention? —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]
3. (a) State three (3) causes of small bowel obstruction. —[3 marks]
- (b) How would a plain abdominal X-ray confirm the diagnosis of intestinal obstruction? —[1 mark]
- (c) Describe the post-operative management of a patient following resection of part of the small intestine and end to end anastomosis. Use the following headings:—
- (i) nutritional needs —[3 marks]
  - (ii) care of drain tube and wound. —[3 marks]
- [10 marks]

4. Mr Bryant is admitted with an open pneumothorax which has been caused by a bullet wound.
- (a) What is meant by pneumothorax? —[1 mark]
- (b) Successful first aid had been given by Mr Bryant's friend. What first aid measures would have been used and why? —[3 marks]
- (c) After resuscitation and improvement in the patient's condition, a thoracotomy is performed, the bullet removed and the lung and pleura sutured. Mr Bryant is returned to the ward with two (2) drainage tubes connected to underwater seal drainage.
- (i) What is the purpose of both drain tubes and why is a seal necessary? —[3 marks]
- (ii) What instructions should a registered general nurse give a student nurse about the management of this drainage? —[8 marks]
- [15 marks]
5. John, 22 years of age, has received a compound comminuted fracture involving tibia and fibula.
- (a) On taking John's history, there was some doubt as to his immunization against tetanus.
- (i) Why would John's wound be considered tetanus prone? —[2 marks]
- (ii) State the immunizing agents and the appropriate dosages which John is likely to be ordered. —[2 marks]
- (iii) What types of immunity would be produced? —[2 marks]
- (b) Define the terms:
- (i) sequestrum
- (ii) osteomyelitis. —[2 marks]
- [8 marks]
6. A patient has deep vein thrombosis following surgery and is to have Heparin by means of an intravenous infusion.
- (a) What is the purpose of administering Heparin? —[1 mark]
- (b) What check would be made to ensure the dose is suitable? —[1 mark]
- (c) What signs might be noticed by the nurse that would indicate that the patient was having too much Heparin? —[2 marks]
- (d) Name the drug which should be readily available for use as an antidote to Heparin —[1 mark]
- [5 marks]
7. A 26 year old married woman is admitted to the ward with an acute abdominal condition suspected to be a ruptured ectopic pregnancy.
- (a) Describe the clinical features and possible history which would be associated with this condition. —[5 marks]
- (b) Describe the treatment which is likely to be carried out. —[3 marks]
- [8 marks]