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REGISTRATION EXAMINATION—(GENERAL NURSES)

SURGICAL NURSING

3rd AUGUST, 1983

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

3RD AUGUST, 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 male patient, 30 years of age, has suffered 25% burns, involving the trunk, upper right arm and face, while rescuing his children from a burning house.
- (a) What first aid measures should be taken to minimise shock and prevent further injury? —[5 marks]
- (b) Describe the immediate care and treatment given on admission to hospital. (Exclude area of the burned surface). —[8 marks]
- (c) The burns are treated by the "open method".
What measures are necessary to help prevent:—
- (i) infection —[3 marks]
- (ii) contractures —[2 marks]
- (iii) psychological depression? —[2 marks]
- [20 marks]
2. As the result of a motor car accident, Bobby Jones, 19 years of age, is suffering from multiple rib fractures causing paradoxical movement of the chest. He has a temporary tracheostomy. The tracheostomy tube is a cuffed tube and he is receiving "positive pressure" ventilation from a Bird ventilator.
- (a) Why is a cuffed tube used? —[1 mark]
- (b) Outline the care of this patient's tracheostomy. —[6 marks]
- (c) How would the nurse recognise that the tracheostomy tube was obstructed? —[3 marks]
- [10 marks]
3. A patient is admitted to hospital with an acute femoral arterial embolism.
- (a) What is the likely source of this embolus? —[1 mark]
- (b) List the clinical features with which the patient may present. —[3 marks]
- (c) An embolectomy is performed within a few hours of admission.
Following surgery:—
- (i) Outline the important points in caring for the limb. —[4 marks]
- (ii) State two (2) likely complications that may occur and how they would be recognised. —[4 marks]
- [12 marks]
4. A baby is born with a meningomyelocele.
- (a) What anatomical abnormality is involved in this condition? —[2 marks]
- (b) Hydrocephalus and neurogenic bladder are two (2) conditions which may accompany spina bifida. State what the underlined terms mean. —[2 marks]
- (c) What neurological defect is often present with meningomyelocele? —[1 mark]
- [5 marks]

5. Mr Cameron, 76 years old, has been admitted to hospital for surgical treatment of a cataract.
- (a) Define the term "cataract". —[1 mark]
- (b) Describe the instructions given Mr Cameron which would lessen the incidence of specific complications following operation. —[5 marks]
- [6 marks]
6. A man, 45 years of age, has returned from the theatre following right nephrectomy.
- (a) State two (2) reasons for performing a nephrectomy. —[1 mark]
- (b) State two (2) specific investigations commonly performed prior to operation. —[1 mark]
- (c) What observations are made of the wound and the urine, and what would be the significance of these? —[4 marks]
- (d) Why may chest infection occur following nephrectomy? —[2 marks]
- [8 marks]
7. Briefly state the principles involved in the management of a mechanical small bowel obstruction. —[4 marks]
8. Define the following terms:—
- (a) cholesteatoma —[1 mark]
- (b) gas gangrene —[1 mark]
- (c) gastrostomy —[1 mark]
- (d) exotoxin —[1 mark]
- (e) dysphagia. —[1 mark]
- [5 marks]