

SALINE INFUSION.

THE three chief Principles underlying the successful administration of a saline infusion are :—

CHIEF PRINCIPLES TO BE OBSERVED.

1. Sterilise everything.
2. The temperature of the saline must not exceed 105° at the thermometer in the bulb.
3. The fluid must not be allowed to flow at a quicker rate than 1 pint in 20 minutes.

PREPARATION OF APPARATUS AND SKIN OF PATIENT.

To prepare a saline infusion everything should be thoroughly boiled for 10 minutes, *i.e.*, can, tubing, needles, water and saline.

The patient's skin should be thoroughly washed with soap and water and painted with Iodine over the area to be treated.

PREPARATION OF NURSE'S HANDS.

The nurse should then render her own hands surgically clean, by scrubbing with soap and water and afterwards immersing them in some antiseptic lotion.

The saline apparatus may then be handled and put together, and the skin of the patient having been made surgically clean by being well rubbed with Iodine, the needles may be inserted.

INSERTING THE NEEDLES.

Before inserting the needles the fluid should be allowed to run through the tubing, in order to ascertain—

1. that the tube is not blocked;
2. to expel any air that is in the tube.

TEMPERATURE OF SALINE, AND RATE OF ADMINISTRATION.

The saline should then be regulated to a temperature of about 105° and should not be allowed to run through at a rate exceeding 1 pint in 20 minutes. This enables the fluid (with the aid of continued gentle massage) to be absorbed as fast as it is injected. The clips between the bulb and the needles are for controlling the rate of flow.

WATCHING OF PATIENT DURING THE INFUSION.

A patient should not be left during an infusion as it is necessary to keep up a continued gentle massage and also to avoid the patient's hands, or bed clothes, rubbing against the area being treated, or knocking out the needles. Should, by accident, either of the needles be pulled out they must be thoroughly sterilized before being re-inserted.

WITHDRAWING OF NEEDLES.

When the prescribed amount of fluid has been administered, the tubing must be pinched: and the needles withdrawn (one at a time). The place from where the needles have been withdrawn should then be quickly dressed with a small piece of sterile wool and collodion.

WATCHING OF PATIENT AFTER INFUSION.

Any patient to whom a saline has been administered, should be carefully watched in case of an abscess forming, though if the three principles mentioned are strictly observed, the risk of an abscess forming is reduced to its minimum.

POEMS.

THE LAND OF YOUR ADOPTION.

I sing the land of such delights
As small-pox and mosquito bites,
Where prickly-heat and blistering nights
Are free to all.

Where white ants eat your books in holes
Where black ants trouble sugar-bowls
And brown ants, biting like a vice
And red ants, small and middle-sized
Have held the land since Adam's rise
And still hold on.

Where from your skin the sweat drops ooze
And rust your precious cycle screws
And mildew sits upon your shoes
Through half the year.

Where spiders spread expansive legs
And hens lay microscopic eggs
And rain, by bucketsful and kegs,
Falls from the sky.

Where water, watering your milk,
And spots on your best China silk,
And centipedes and all their ilk
Make friendly cause.

Where serpents add their charm to spring
And jackals make the welkin ring
And insects myriad-winged sting
And make their mark.