

IMPROVISING

I

DEAR EDITOR: I would suggest the following to hospital workers; Use the blue paper in which absorbent cotton is rolled for dressing covers. It stands sterilization well.

Richmond, Va.

II

DEAR EDITOR: For the benefit of the nurse who may be called to a case in the country, far from any place where hospital requisites are kept, or on a case where a douche pan is needed very hurriedly, an improvisation may be made quite easily by using a bake pan, commonly used for baking bread, dimensions about 10 inches x 16 x 2½. Place a board over the end of the pan for the patient's back to rest on. This may be kept in place either by cutting a groove around three sides where the pan rim touches or by tacking narrow strips of board on the under side. I used the latter method and found the pan satisfactory for either a douche pan or a bed pan.

Indiana.

M. S. E.

III

DEAR EDITOR: It is with no idea of presenting anything new that I send this suggestion, but hoping that it may catch the eyes of some of the recent graduates, just starting out to meet the trials and tribulations, as well as the joys, of private duty nursing. I want to recommend the use of a board across the rounded end of the tub, in a bathroom of limited space. As a place for basins and things of like kind, it is not only convenient but dispenses with the noise occasioned by putting them on the tiled floor, or in the tub. It can be used also for a small gas stove, if the room is too small to permit of a table. May I caution the nurse not to make unnecessary use of the improvised table? And forethought on her part, in removing the utensils from the board at times when she knows the tub is to be used, will not lessen the appreciation of her presence in the house.

New York.

"ONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE."

IV

DEAR EDITOR: Tuberculosis patients very seldom have warning or symptoms denoting hemorrhage and if severe it is enough to make anyone amazed and want to hurry. In our hospital, where we have a very practical and efficient method of treatment for hemorrhages, although not many cases are so afflicted, we have a drawer containing the following: a white enamel dish, 9 inches in diameter and 4 inches deep; a bundle of second grade surgical gauze, cut 4 x 4 for mouth wipes; a large paper sack; a two-ounce bottle of chloroform (used for inhalation); small tin ointment box of vaseline; two small muslin squares 18-24 to protect pillow and bed clothes; one ice cap with muslin cover.

This is all that is necessary for cases confined in the infirmary where the drug room may be reached easily, For a call from ambulatory cottages, we have in addition to the above articles a box about 8 x 4 inches containing: 1 sterile hypo wrapped in sterile cotton and cloth; 1 sterile hypo needle contained in sterile vial; 1 sterile hypo spoon in sterile cloth; 1 bottle of sterile water; 1 bottle of alcohol; 1 tube of morphine gr. ¼, atropine gr. ⅙; 1 tube of H. M. C. No. ii (mostly used here); 1 tube of strychnine gr. ⅙.