

### ENEMAS.

The position has much to do with the comfort of the patient and more so with the effect of the enema. The following positions are most used :—

Sims's or left lateral, in any cases where the patient can be placed without discomfort or danger of tearing stitches, as in a recent laparotomy.

Dorsal in any case where patient cannot be turned on the side, and in giving rectal irrigations.

Right lateral when complete laceration of perineum exists.

Genu-pectoral, or knee-chest, position when giving rectal irrigations or when giving medicated enemas, as in cases of dysentery, etc.

Trendelenburg's position immediately after an operation when stimulating or saline enemas are given, especially if the sphincter-muscles are relaxed.

An evacuant enema consists of either pure water to which is added a little salt or soap-suds. This enema should not be very large, 1 to 2 pints being a sufficient amount. It can be given either high or low, but the latter is most commonly used.

A purgative enema is given when an increased peristaltic action is desired, and consists generally of some irritating medicine mixed with water, salt solution, or soap-suds. The following prescriptions have proved very efficient :—

R Turpentine,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce.  
Mag. sulph., 1 ounce.  
Castor-oil, 1 ounce.  
Warm water, 1 pint.

R Ox-gall, 15 grains.  
Turpentine,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce.  
Glycerin, 1 ounce.  
Castor-oil, 1 ounce.  
Soap-suds, 1 pint.

The ox-gall should first be dissolved in a little warm water.

In cases of severe constipation, when the fæces are clogged in the lower bowels, it will often be necessary to remove them with the fingers, then inject 5 to 8 ounces of warm olive-oil, which should be retained for one hour, followed by an evacuant enema. In cases of operation upon the perineum, rectum, etc., the bowels should never be allowed to be moved the first time after the operation without an oil enema; this will prevent much pain and irritation to parts surrounding the stitches.

An antispasmodic enema is given in cases of colic either in adult or child. This enema gives great relief to patient in cases of tympanites. It is best given in Sims's positions. If the flatulence is caused by fer-