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## Original Articles

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### DUTIES OF A NURSE IN ABDOMINAL SURGERY.\*

(PREPARATIONS NECESSARY IN SUCH OPERATIONS.—PATIENT, ROOM,  
NURSE, ETC.—AFTER-CARE OF PATIENT.)

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*Preparation of Room for Operation.*—When possible, the nurse should go to the house of the patient the day before the operation to select a suitable room, and prepare it, getting ready towels, bed-linen, water, and vessels. A room on the second floor, with good light and ventilation, is to be preferred. Remove carpets, curtains, upholstery, and all unnecessary articles of furniture, such as sofas, rocking-chairs, fancy tables, brackets, pictures, etc. Have the mattress thoroughly aired, and the bed cleaned and made up with a fresh draw sheet, having a rubber sheet underneath. A single bed should be used if it can be had.

Have the floor scrubbed thoroughly, wipe off the walls, and particularly tops of doors and windows, removing every particle of dust, and on the morning of the operation go over all again with a wet cloth. Do not use a dry duster in the room.

Provide the following articles: Four chairs, with wood or cane seats, a table four feet long, two feet wide, and thirty inches high (these are the dimensions of a common kitchen table), and put a small table to the end of this; three small square tables (a bureau or marble-topped washstand will do), two clean buckets,

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\*A Lecture given to the Nurses at Toronto General Hospital, March 10th, 1902.