

of the part operated on and commences to tell the many different ways he might have treated the case, and the comparatively poor results which would have followed any plan but that adopted by him with intuitive surgical acumen. Antiseptics furnish abundant material for padding. He tells of the relative merits of the discarded ones and the surprising advantages of the latest synthetic drug from Hamburg. He revels in antiseptics, they intoxicate him, and his garrulity and verbosity find scope in describing how he sterilized himself, his clothes, his instruments, his operating theatre, his patient, his attendants. Ligatures, vegetable, animal, and metallic, have likewise gone through the burning fiery furnace, and all must be recounted. The paper proceeds with a glowing account of how, thanks to the antiseptic dressings and antipyretic remedies, the temperature never rose above normal, but that, unfortunately, owing to some inherited delicacy, the patient succumbed, and the specimen exhibited is a complete proof of the diagnostic power, skill, and so forth of the surgeon, and an undoubted evidence of the value of antiseptics, antipyretics, and all such modern remedies, and in every sense conclusive that we have attained to perfection, and that we are in the golden age of medicine. Cannot a paper, telling a plain story without garnishing of text-books, anatomical details, or such information as all decently educated medical possess, be read and published? It would tend to spread information, make journals less bulky and more readable, and altogether benefit medicine."

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS.—From Rome, under date the 17th ult., *The Lancet's* correspondent writes: "There can now be no doubt that in point of numbers alone, to say nothing of the importance of the monographs which were announced in my last communication as being expected from such *dii majorum gentium* of medicine as Virchow, Charcot, and Nothnagel, the coming congress will be superior to the most frequented of its ten predecessors. In the first place, take Italy herself. There are about 20,000 possessors of medical diplomas in the peninsula, and of these it is safe to assume that no fewer than one-fourth will make an appearance at the sections. To these 5,000 Italian medical men may safely be added the 3,000 practitioners and teachers of other nationalities who are already pledged to come, to say nothing of the fact that 'adesioni' to the number of 3,000 more are all but committed to be present. Allowing for abstentions and 'false starts' due to unforeseen causes, which affect no profession more than the medical, we may deduct 1,000 from the 11,000 thus compiled, and the balance of 10,000 'Congressionisti' remains—a total exceeding by more than 4,000 the attendance at the Berlin Congress in 1890. It is, I find, from Germany that the majority of the foreign participants at the sittings will come. Certainly, there is nothing of that international jealousy between Italy and the two other members of the Triple Alliance that caused French representatives to be 'conspicuous by their absence' at the Berlin Congress. America also, both from her northern and southern divisions, will send many delegates—the physicians and surgeons of the United States especially."

A cable despatch from Rome, dated August 2nd, reports that the congress has been postponed until April next by reason of the prevalence of cholera.—*Medical Record.*