

while the cartridge was being rammed into place, while others were contusions from flying pieces of bursting guns, were all serious; and a discussion took place among the surgeons as to the amputations to be performed. In the midst of this an Alsatian miller came in, and begged the privilege of treating the wounded, earnestly promising to cure them. He was allowed a trial, and immediately called for some water, into which he threw a little white powder, which was afterwards found to be alum. He then proceeded to bathe the wounds with the water, accompanying his movements with mysterious gestures, and muttered words of unknown import. After bathing the wounds thoroughly, he covered them with lint, and bandaged them well, first soaking the lint with the water, which he renewed by sprinkling every three hours. At the end of six weeks all the wounded were discharged, cured. Since that time the water treatment has been employed in similar cases by surgeons of great distinction, and with signal success. The application is very simple. Water of any kind may be used, without alum or incantations, only taking care that it is clean, and cool in summer, and slightly warmed in winter. The wound is first to be carefully washed, and then covered with a wet linen bandage, or, what is better, a soft woollen material, thoroughly soaked, and with an inner bandage of linen, to prevent the wool from irritating the wound. The bandages must be kept moist by frequent applications of a sponge or wet cloth. This constant soaking of the wound relieves the pain, and keeps the tissues in a favorable condition for healing. According to the account, the treatment is particularly advantageous for wounds in the hands, which form eighty-seven per cent. of all the injuries caused by machinery.

The next class of accidents mentioned comprises those which cause punctured wounds. Although less frightful in appearance than more extensive injuries, punctured wounds are often followed by serious or even fatal consequences, through the poisoning of the system by infectious matters so introduced into the blood. Anatomists and medical students, as is well known, often lose their health, and sometimes their lives, from the results of an accidental scratch from a scalpel used in dissecting a subject; and butchers not unfrequently suffer in a similar way, particularly if they have been handling an animal infected with a contagious disease. In such cases, the old practice was to burn out the wound at once with a white-hot iron or some less terrible caustic; but it seems that an effect equally favorable can be obtained by keeping the wound open, and encouraging it to bleed. The extraction of the blood from the puncture is particularly necessary when the wound is first given; and the injured part should be held under a thin stream of tepid water, and the blood even sucked out by some self-sacrificing person, as is done by savages when one of their number is bitten by a venomous snake.

For burns, the doctor advises the application of cold water for a first application, with perhaps a coat of varnish later, to prevent the painful contact of air with the injured skin. Where the burn is deep, so that the skin is blistered, the utmost care must be taken, in removing the clothes, not to tear away the skin, which is likely to adhere strongly to the cloth, as the exposure of the nerves of the inner skin to the air by the removal of the epidermis causes pain so intense as often to prove fatal to the patient. If, by

misfortune, the blistered epidermis should be torn, it must be restored to its place, piece by piece; or, if this is impracticable, an artificial skin must be at once applied, formed of oiled linen or paper if nothing better can be had. If the materials are at hand, the best application is a mixture of equal parts of lime-water and olive-oil, covered with fine linen and a piece of cotton-batting; and, as soon as these are applied, a physician must be sent for. We are rather surprised not to have found something in the paper about the application of common soda or saleratus to superficial burns. The liniment of lime-water and oil has a little of the same alkaline character; but neither of them is as easily procured, at least in most households, as the saleratus or soda, which is known to relieve so effectually the pain of an ordinary burn.

In cases of fracture, as, for example, the breaking of the leg of a workman by falling from a stage, the first thing to be done is, to lift the sufferer with great care, assigning one person to manage the injured limb. A blind, or board of some kind, is then to be slipped beneath, and the patient gently laid on it, placing a pillow under the broken leg, which should be extended at full length. He is then to be carried very gently, avoiding all jolts and collisions, to his house; remembering, in case it is necessary to take him up or down stairs, to keep his feet highest, so that the weight of the body may not come upon the injured member. Once at home, his clothes are to be taken off by ripping the seams, and the leg gently bandaged with wet linen, to await the surgeon's arrival. Lastly, for wounds which cause serious bleeding, attention must be given at once to checking this, since the loss of only two or three quarts of blood is fatal. The first thing to be done is, to raise the bleeding part as high as possible, so that the weight of the blood may of itself draw it away from the open vein or artery. A simple bandage should then be applied,—either above or below the wound, according as the blood is bright-colored, and flows in pulsations, or is dark, and flows uniformly,—placing a stone or a knot in the bandage, if necessary, to press upon the spot where, as is found by testing with the finger, the flow seems to be best controlled. As soon as possible the wound should be washed with clear water, and a wet linen cloth applied over it; and, as before, a surgeon's aid should be sought at once.—*Popular Science News.*

#### THE GLORIES OF MORNING.

BY EDWARD EVERETT.

§ HAD occasion, a few weeks since, to take the early train from Providence to Boston; and for this purpose rose at two o'clock in the morning. Everything around was wrapt in darkness and hushed in silence, broken only by what seemed at that hour the unearthly clank and rush of the train. It was a mild, serene, midsummer's night—the sky was without a cloud—the winds were whist. The moon, then in the last quarter, had just risen, and the stars shone with a spectral lustre but little affected by her presence. Jupiter, two hours high, was the herald of the day; the Pleiades, just above the horizon, shed their sweet influence in the east; Lyra sparkled near the zenith; the steady pointers, far beneath the pole, looked meekly up from the depths of the north to their sovereign.