

The patient was discharged some three weeks later and has since been in good health, weighing more now than at any previous time.

Finally, I am inclined to think that where extreme rapidity is not essential it is to be preferred as the easiest, safest and most rapid method of end to end union of intestine.

SELECTED ARTICLES.

SURGICAL APPLIANCES,

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A Clinical Lecture Delivered at the New York Polyclinic.

To a stranger visiting the New York hospitals the technique of a so-called aseptic operation seems hopelessly complicated, and he is more discouraged than benefitted by the elaborate processes that he sees. It seems hard to impress, however, that while these things are desirable if they can be readily obtained, they are by no means necessary to an absolutely perfect result.

I hope by a few suggestions to give the outline of surgical appliances and methods that may prove both simple and desirable as far as results are concerned.

When we consider that the word "sterile," like the word "perfect," admits of no comparison, we can see that any process which is intended to sterilize must mean an absolute destruction of all the germs on the dressing, sutures or instruments. It is certainly true that boiling water at ordinary pressure will kill most germs but whether this water is boiled in a fifty cent. asparagus boiler or in a much more expensive apparatus is a matter of insignificance so far as the death of the germs is concerned. With a comparatively small outlay, say \$25.00, exclusive of cost of instruments, one should be able to have sufficient apparatus to conduct any aseptic operation known to surgery.

First let us take the surgeon's bag. Instruments can best be carried in canvass rolls with partitions made by cotton bands in order to protect the instruments. These rolls can be

readily made by any seamstress, and should cost little more than the original cost of the canvas. It is better to have a number of these canvass rolls so that they can be frequently boiled, and so the instruments can be divided up among several rolls and be less bulky than in one roll. These rolls can be thoroughly sterilized by boiling, and should be treated frequently. They can be carried in an ordinary travelling satchel which may be purchased from dealers in leather goods. The best one for ordinary uses should have a steel frame, and open on top by two flaps so that the material contained will not be crushed together. A convenient size is eighteen inches by nine inches high, by eight and one-half broad. A folded towel should be placed in the bottom, and may be replaced by a clean one when desired.

An operating table can be readily improvised by two small tables placed together, by a kitchen or dining room table, or if necessary, by a door placed on two barrels. This should be covered by a blanket, and over this a rubber sheet should be spread, a clean aseptic sheet covering the whole. The pillow should be covered by a pillow case made of rubber, or else it should be placed beneath the rubber sheet so as to protect it from injury by blood or solutions.

DRESSINGS.

The dressings usually employed are gauzes—medicated or sterile,—cotton and bandages.

The gauze can be bought or can be as readily made from ordinary cheese cloth, or butter cloth, as it is sometimes called. This should be bought in bolts and cut into small pieces. It should then be boiled for two hours in a weak solution of sal soda (ordinary washing soda), rinsed in cold water and boiled again in pure water, when it may be dried by baking in a bread oven at a low temperature for a few hours. It can then be carried in glass jars which have been boiled. The kind called "Mason's" and used for preserving fruits is best.

Bichloride gauze should never be used, as the organic material soon precipitates the sublimate into calomel.

The list of medicated gauzes is a long one. Probably the most important