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## Original Communications.

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### GASOLINE AS A SURGICAL DETERGENT.\*

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In introducing the subject of gasoline as a surgical detergent I will make the statement that I believe that the subject of detergents in surgical work has not been given the attention which it deserves from the general body of medical and surgical practitioners.

Dungleson's Medical Dictionary defines detergents, abstergents or abluents as medicines which possess the power to deterge or cleanse parts, such as wounds, ulcers, etc., and in these days of asepsis and antiseptis detergents should occupy a very prominent place. The old saying that "Cleanliness is next to godliness," has been found by experience to be a truism. So many of the ills to which we are subject, both surgically and medically, are preventable diseases, and preventable by perfect cleanliness. I wish to present to your notice to-day a new surgical detergent, although a detergent which has been in use for years in the arts. I speak of gasoline—commercial gasoline. It can be had wherever surgeons are found, and has the advantage of being inexpensive, and, being a distilled product, is sterile in itself. Gasoline is a product of the fractional distillation of crude petroleum. On distilling this body, the first distillate consists principally of rhigoline; the second is gasoline, which passes over at between 60 and 90 per cent. The average yield is about 1½ to 2 per cent.; refined naphtha, 10 per cent.; benzine, 4 per cent.; kerosene, 55 per cent.; lubricating oil, 17½ per cent.; paraffin, 2 per cent.

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\* Read at meeting of International Association of Railway Surgeons, Detroit.