

The older methods of juniper oil, carbolic acid and many others, have been abandoned. Some are unreliable and the others impair the suture material. Some surgeons have one objection to chromicized gut, believing it is not suitable for use in the abdominal cavity.

Stinson of San Francisco says (*Philadelphia Medical Journal*, Vol. 2, Page 841.) :—"The catgut I use I prepare myself. I may state that two sizes of catgut are all one needs, Nos. 20 and 25, according to the American wire-gauge system. The preferable form of catgut is that put up in bowlines, each about one yard long and rolled separately in bunches."

He further says :—"To prepare the catgut :—

1st. Place the bowlines in ether for several days to remove fat.

2nd. Change to a sterilized vessel containing 1 to 4000 corrosive sublimate in pure ether in which the gut is kept one week to disinfect. To complete the process, and have the material in the most suitable fluid, place the gut in a sterilized bottle, with a screw or other air tight top. Pour in ordinary alcohol to more than cover the gut. The alcohol should fill only half the bottle. Stand the bottle in water which reaches nearly to the lower edge of the screw top. In order not to take a chance of breaking the bottle, stand it on a folded towel, placed in the bottom of a vessel containing the water, which is heated to the boiling point. When the air is driven from the bottle by the boiling alcohol, screw down the top tightly. It takes a couple of minutes to drive off the air. Leave the sealed bottle in the water at the boiling point for fifteen minutes. At the lapse of the time the bottle is removed, allowed to cool, and then the gut is ready for use. There is no danger of an explosion with the top screwed down tightly. If one wishes to chromicize the gut, then after removing it from the bichloride-ether solution, place it in an alcoholic solution of potassium bichromate made as follows :—Take 15 grs. of potassium bichromate, dissolve it in an ounce or so of sterilized water, add the chromate solution to a pint of ordinary alcohol (sterilized) Leave the gut in this solution till it is a golden color (usually about 24 hours are sufficient), when it is removed and placed in a sterilized basin and sun dried, which takes a couple of days or longer. The gut is then placed in a sterilized bottle with an air tight top, alcohol is poured in to more than cover the gut, and boiled as already described. The gut is sun dried to get the same effect which is obtained in the process of tanning hides. The bichromate of potash penetrates the tissues of the gut and becomes so intimately associated with the fibrils that it is not