

The antiseptic system of treating wounds, recently suggested and put in practise by Lister, commends itself to the consideration of every surgeon; though a difference of opinion exists as to its merits, still experience may establish it as superior to all other modes of treatment.

There has been a great improvement in the treatment of sores "tending to heal," by the substitution of moist applications, instead of the ointments formerly employed, and in the "callous or indolent" ulcer by the application of blisters to the surface of the swollen part. I must also mention a very recent practice of M. Riverden, of Paris, that of transplanting portions of the skin for the closure of large granulating surfaces of ulcers, following burns, &c.

The substitution of effectual drainage in sinuses that remain after the evacuation of abscesses, for stimulating injections, sponge tents and pressure, is an improvement. And the drill, in deep-seated abscesses of bone, has, of late years, saved many a limb.

In few matters has surgery more improved than in the treatment of diseased joints; formerly recovery was considered almost hopeless, under the use of caustic-issues, &c.; whereas we now confidently look for recovery under perfect rest and extension. And should bony ankylosis take place, an artificial hip-joint may now be produced, by an ingenious operation suggested and recently performed successfully by Professor Sayre, of New York.

Since the commencement of the present century, many new operations have come into practice, as ovariectomy, the operation for vesico-vaginal fistula, cleft palate, removal of the tongue, the radical cure of hernia, excision of the upper and lower jaw, perineal incision in aggravated urethral stricture, delegation of the carotid, subclavian and other large arteries; in ophthalmic surgery, iridectomy, &c., and lithotrity, an operation characterised as one of the greatest additions to modern surgery, and one that must largely supersede the cutting operation of lithotomy, for, while the mortality from lithotomy ranges from one in six to one in ten, that from lithotrity, according to Sir H. Thompson, is about one in thirteen, and from present experience, it may be assumed that all stones weighing less than one ounce, in grown persons, should be removed with the lithotrite.

Increased knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and pathology, has enabled surgeons, within the same period, to remedy distortions and deformities arising from cutaneous and joint contractions, by subcutaneous incision and plastic operations.

Prior to 1809, when MacDowell, of Kentucky, first performed the operation of ovariectomy, every woman labouring under ovarian dropsy