

ping upon the lint covering the wound by the means of the bottle and strip of lint. There was slight bleeding for 24 hours with occasional shooting pain and slight feverishness. For seven weeks the dressings were not in any way interfered with, the man during that time enjoying perfect health, suffering no pain, sleeping and eating well. On the 49th day, the splints and dressings were removed, revealing the following state of things: about a dessertspoonful of pus, the wound completely filled up, a narrow line of exuberant granulations marking where the incision had been made, and an ankle firm and natural looking, with a slight amount of motion. With the aid of a boot half an inch thicker in the sole than the other, he was able to walk very well.

*Case 7.*—A thin strumous looking lad, 17 years of age, was admitted with disease of the cuboid. The bone was removed by a crucial incision the case, and was treated in a manner precisely the same as the last case alluded to. The boy suffered a good deal of pain, but when the dressing and splint were removed at the end of six weeks, the hole had completely filled up, the wound healed, and after a few days on crutches, the boy walked out as well as ever.

*Case 8.*—A little girl, age 10, was sent up from the country, with disease of the calcis. A semilunar flap was made from below upwards over the bone, and the diseased part, about the size of a walnut, was gouged out. The wound was covered with lint, the limb bandaged to a splint, and treated as described in the preceding cases. The discharge was very slight, no pain whatever, and at the end of five weeks the child was perfectly well.

*Case 9.*—A puny little boy, of eight years of age, was admitted with disease of the ankle-joint. The joint was excised in the usual way, and the after treatment was exactly the same as described above. At the end of two months the dressings were removed. Nothing but a surface sore remained, very fair union had taken place, and during these two months there had escaped not more than two ounces of pus.

*Case 10.*—A young man about 19, had a large fatty tumor removed from the back of his neck. The edges of the wound were brought together with silver sutures, a pad of lint soaked in a solution of carbolic acid was applied, and not interfered with for four days. At the end of that time, perfect union had taken place.

I could go on enumerating case after case, but I think those already given suffice to show that the plain and simple use of an aqueous solution, of a

strength varying according to the case from 6 to 12 grains of crystals to the ounce of water, will prove quite if not more efficacious than the elaborate messes with putty and oil, etc., to say nothing of the spraying the patient as well as the surgeon during the operation and other manœuvres too numerous to mention, all of which have tended in a great measure to bring the use of carbolic acid into ridicule. In most London hospitals, such a solution is always kept at hand, both in the accident room as well as in the out-door surgical department, and all cases of wounds, etc., unless special orders are given to the contrary, are dressed with this solution. Unless there was some virtue in it, such a practice would not have been kept up for so many years under the directions of some of the ablest surgeons in the world.

#### *To be Continued.*

#### *On the use of Alcoholic Stimulants by Nursing Mothers.* By WILLIAM E. BESSEY, M.D.

Perhaps there is no more grave or pernicious error in the modern practice of physic than the habit of recommending the use of alcoholic stimulants to nursing mothers. It is unsound in principle, unwise in practice, and must appear, on a little observation, to an unbiased mind, to be not merely unsafe but positively harmful and pernicious in its influence upon both mother and offspring.

It is wrong in principle because administered or recommended as it is, to improve and augment the lactic secretion in the mother, it holds out a promise of being able to effect—in what way we are not told—an improvement in both the quality and quantity of the mammary secretion. How or in what manner has never been explained. The whole theory is a fallacy based upon mere assumption, and unsupported by the practical tests of observation and experience.

It is true that alcohol, and especially malt liquors, are powerful stimulants to the glandular organs of the body, although invariably followed by a state of reaction corresponding with the degree of excitement by which it had been preceded. The excitement thus produced in the mammary glands is, of course, attended with an increase in their secretion; but this has reference only to the quantity—an increase in the watery portion of the fluid takes place undoubtedly; but the caseine, on the contrary, or muscle-making element in the secretion, is diminished. This may be verified by any one who may be disposed to take the trouble. Alcohol, pure and