

Laryngology, Rhinology

IN CHARGE OF
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and Otolology

THE PROBLEM OF ASEPSIS IN THE ROUTINE OFFICE WORK OF THE LARYNGOLOGIST.

THOMAS HUBBARD (*Laryngoscope*, July, 1907) writes on this rather unusual but important feature of the nose and throat specialist's routine work. The general principles underlying general aseptic work apply with equal force to the surgery of the nose and throat, even if it is not possible to secure as aseptic a field in laryngological and rhinological patients. Hubbard thinks the future will see most of the minor operative work performed in special hospitals rather than in the office, when aseptic facilities are not what they should be. He insists on a clean workshop. A floor covering that will stand daily scrubbing, sanitary plumbing and a fountain cuspidor are points he insists upon. Good ventilation is desirable from the patient's as well as the physician's standpoint. Boiling water alone is sufficient for cleaning instruments. Cutting instruments are boiled after using and then wrapped in gauze and paraffin paper. The cut-off and tubing should be protected by gauze covering. Operator and assistants should use rubber gloves and a gown if occasion demands it. A special paper napkin is used in place of gauze or cotton handkerchief. A steam sterilizer is an absolute necessity in every office. Prior to operation spraying the nasal mucous membrane excites a copious flow of sero-mucus, which in turn flushes the glands and recesses of the mucous membrane effectually. Too firm packing retards this action and is therefore very detrimental to rapid and healthy union. Attention to the condition of the teeth and mouth are important in throat operations. The quality of the air used is considered of very great importance. Dry, cotton-filtered air in a tank, kept as clean as possible by occasional use of vapor antiseptics, should be a feature of every well-ordered office-operating equipment.

The paper is a very timely one and while it may seem somewhat overdrawn in some features, there can be no doubt but that it will stimulate all who read it to pay more attention to their powers in preventive medicine.