

the past five days. On removing the dressings very little discharge was found on the cotton. The wound was entirely healed, except at the points where the drainage tubes were inserted. The external application of the carbolic lotion was discontinued.

*October 15th.*—Dressings removed, and the wound found to be entirely healed, except at a point in the lower angle. The wounds of the right foot were dressed simultaneously with that of the stump. Although a small portion of the integument sloughed, there was no trace of inflammatory action. Granulations sprang up and the wound rapidly closed, so that on October 17th the cotton dressing was discontinued and unguentum resina was applied.

This case did as well as any case could have done under the most rigid Lister dressing. The value of cotton-wool as an antiseptic dressing is, I think, not fully appreciated by the profession. M. Guerin, of Paris, in 1872, and since then Mr. Gamgee, of Birmingham, England, have called attention to its great value. Used in the way I have indicated, it seems to me to be as perfect an antiseptic dressing as the gauze and other materials recommended by Mr. Lister, while at the same time it is free from all objections that pertain to the latter, and which materially hinder their use by the general practitioner. If applied in sufficient quantities around an open wound, it protects it thoroughly from the "floating matter of the air" which is supposed to be the real inciter of suppuration. It is the best germ filter known to us. Tyndall, whose experiments were very carefully made, found that while filtering the air, and endeavoring to get it perfectly pure, atmospheric dust, which would readily pass through sulphuric acid and a strong solution of caustic potash, was completely stopped by ordinary cotton-wool. I have used the very excellent borated cotton made by Mr. am Ende, of Hoboken, containing 15 per cent. of boracic acid\* Keeping it wet externally with the solution of carbolic

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\* A great deal of the so-called borated cotton sold by dealers is made with a solution of borax, instead of boracic acid, which can always be ascertained by burning a piece of the cotton; if the cotton has been properly prepared with boracic acid, the flame is of a bright green color, but, if, as is generally the case, borax has been used, the flame will show very little of the green tint.