

daily and afterwards to be removed and the part dusted with talcum powder; or we may use,

℞ Precipitate ointment, 1 drachm.
Subnitrate of bismuth, $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm.
Ichthyol, 30 grains.
Vaselin, 6 drachms.

Apply at night.

—*Therapeutic Gazette.*

“Surgical Interference” or “Surgical Intervention”?

We have never understood why authorities in surgery use the word “interference” when speaking of surgical or operative treatment. When a surgeon performs an operation for the correction of a deformity, the mitigation of pain or the saving of life, does he mean to say that he interferes? If it be interference, then he is culpable; but certainly no operator will plead guilty to the charge of doing meddling surgery, and the inevitable conclusion is that the term “surgical interference” is a misnomer. Whenever we read it in text-books, or in current literature, we feel like substituting the word *intercession* for “interference,” using the word *intervention* in the sense of interposition, or, better still, mediation—a coming between for a friendly purpose. The word *interference* suggests the idea of collision, clashing, opposition, officiousness, intermeddling, etc. According to Webster, “A man may often *interpose* with propriety in the concern of others; he can never *intermeddle* without being impertinent or officious; nor can he *interfere* without being liable to the same charge, unless he has rights which are interfered with.” Let us see what Trench has to say. We quote: “In our practical use, *interference* is something offensive. It is the pushing in of himself between two parties on the part of a third who was not asked, and is not thanked for his pains, and who, as the feeling of the word implies, had no business there; while *interposition* is employed to express the friendly, peace-making mediation of one whom the act well became, and who, even if he was not specially invited thereunto, is still thanked for what he has done.” A few days ago we suggested the improved phraseology to two of our surgical friends, both of whom are teachers of surgery and liberal contributors to surgical literature. They agreed with us that the point was well taken, and announced it as their intention to adopt the suggestion. Speaking for ourselves, this journal will hereafter use the term surgical *intervention* instead of surgical interference, and we shall hope to see its general adoption by surgical writers.—*Richmond Journ. of Practice.*