

THE TOBACCO-POUCH SUTURE.

Doyen has lately been extending the application of the pucker string suture to abdominal surgery, using it on the appendix, intestine, stomach and Douglas' sac after abdominal hysterectomy, and now Quervain, after extensive tests on the cadaver, announces that it is stronger than the Lembert suture, and is peculiarly adapted to the peritoneum, when the latter is movable and the opening is of moderate size. The ends can be tucked in and the thread drawn tight like an anus, or the edges can be left out and the stitches taken with longer stretches on the outside, which forms a particularly strong and effectual method of suturing organs invested externally with serosa, such as the intestines and gall-bladder. He is confident that one trial will convince all of the remarkable advantages to be gained from this suture on the peritoneum.—*Journal American Medical Association.*

STERILIZATION OF THE SKIN.

Senger (*Archiv. fur. klin. Chir.*, vol. 59, p. 425) gives the results of a long series of experiments conducted by him in order to discover the best method of sterilizing the skin. He finally adopted the following technic: (1) Mechanical cleansing of the skin with ordinary soap and water just as hot as it can be borne—about 40° to 45° C. (104° to 113° F.). This scrubbing should last at least five minutes. (2) Bathing or rubbing the hands with alcohol (40 to 60 per cent.). (3) Washing the skin for two minutes with a warm 2 to 5 per cent. solution of hydrochloric acid. (4) Washing the skin for one minute with a warm $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. solution of permanganate of potash. (5) Washing the skin with sulphurous acid until it is decolorized. The whole process takes about ten minutes. Senger insists upon having the solutions warm, claiming that their antiseptic action is much increased by the heat. By this method he has been able to obtain sterility in almost every instance in which the skin was tested by scraping. He objects to this method of making the test, however, on the ground that it is not as accurate as when small snips of the skin are imbedded in the culture material. When tested in this way the skin was found to be sterile in about 75 per cent. of the recent experiments. This is far in advance of the results he was able to obtain by any other method.—*Medical News, Nashville Jour. of Med. and Surg.*