

tion of ventilation is obtained in the other two, which are simply large covered verandas, the floors of which are about six feet from the ground, the space beneath being open; the sides are of heavy canvas, in sections, which can be drawn up to any required height.

Scattered about the park are tents in which cases demanding isolation are placed, e. g., in one was a case of gangrene, in another an offensive bubo, in a third, two cases of morbus coxae.

In many points, treatment is of the same character as at home, beer and bouillon are frequently ordered. Our omnipotent, or rather, ubiquitous carbolic acid, has not yet obtained favorable consideration here. Charcoal, Permanganate of Potassa, and the preparations of Chlorine, are used as disinfectants for wounds.

Conservative surgery seems dominant, for of the two hundred and thirty patients, but one had been subjected to amputation, and a number of cases of partially severed fingers, involving fractures, were being treated with hope of union, while several cases of malignant diseases were receiving only palliative treatment.

The wards were especially rich in fractures of the long bones, of every variety—simple, compound and comminuted. The treatment for *all* is the plaster paris splints, with the limb extended, an opening being made at the site of wound in compound cases. Great as was my surprise at this uniformity of treatment, it was increased when I learned that the dressing is applied immediately after the injury, a plan introduced by Prof. Langenbeck of this city, of course doing away with all other means of co-aptation and extension. Of the success of this method I was unable to judge from results, as all the patients were still wearing the splint. I was, however, favorably impressed with it in three cases of fracture of the femur (such as we would probably use it in), the patient having a much greater liberty of movement than in any other dressing, and proportionately greater degree of comfort during their confinement.

The plaster is applied as we are in the habit of doing, the bandage being of flannel, or more commonly of (I send you a specimen, the ladies can tell you the name), which is cheaper here than muslin; after the bandage is applied a very thick layer of plaster is spread over it, thus making a firm, closely-fitting case for the limb. In a case of fracture at the neck of the humerus, Dessault's dressing was applied and retained *in situ* by a layer of plaster enveloping the injured arm and entire chest. This dressing is evidently the "mode" here, as even contused fractured fingers were done up with it. Of its value in all cases, and of the propriety of its immediate application, I have serious doubts.

We were shown the method of using an apparatus for securing accurate extension while applying the dressing to fractures of the lower extremity. The instrument consists of a heavy iron rod carrying at right-angles a moveable iron seat, the patient is placed on a bed formed of three firm cushions, upon the middle one of which the pelvis rests. When ready for dressing the middle cushion is removed, one end of the rod is secured to the bottom of the bedstead, the rod passing perpendicularly between the thighs and pressing firmly against the perineum, the seat is adjusted to support the nates and sacrum,

and the pelvis thus being fixed, extension can be made without fear of its "tilting."

Everywhere were the evidences of scrupulous care in the management of the institution, the beds, floors and clothing of the patients were clean, the nurses sufficiently numerous and dextrous, and the patients all looked contented.

I was pleased with their simple but very efficient apparatus for washing wounds. It is the nasal douche we use, being a tin vessel with tube and stopcock at the bottom, to which an Indian rubber tube with ivory point is attached. The nurse carries the vessel and regulates the force of the stream by its elevation. Such an appliance is more convenient, and certainly less painful than the sponge. Vessels adapted in size and shape to the part to be cleansed are at hand to receive the discharges, thus for a wound in the axilla a basin fitting around the side of the chest was used, and for the leg a large, shallow vessel not unlike a tea-tray.

W. H. T.

The following we also take from the same journal:

LETTER FROM DR. WHITTAKER.

PRAGUE, Sept. 8, 1868.

EDITOR LANCET AND OBSERVER: PROUD as we are, and justly of the many advantages and immunities of our own beloved form of government, it would yet imply a prejudice the most profound, to observe the peculiar opportunities vouchsafed to science by a rigid, if impartial, monarchy. Schemes and measures, which with us require a system of chicanery among political demagogues, are here at once effected by the fiat of power. The broad mantle of liberty at home forms the sadly misused cloak for so many pretenses. The marked contrast exhibited in the founding of the large and commodious new Lying-in Hospital, of Prague, and the long and weary efforts of our Board of Trustees to secure the necessary co-operation of the State Legislature for the erection of the new Commercial Hospital of Cincinnati, has induced the above homily. The same is true of similar institutions throughout Europe, though the suggestion, or incentive, in Catholic countries as this, is usually furnished by the church. The present building, which has for some time proved inadequate to the increasing demand, forms a long row of two-story plain yellow buildings on the summit of a hill just at the edge of, and overlooking the city. An old church of gray stone whose erection extends further into time than the memory of man, forms the upper angle, while below, the receding ground affords an additional story for the culinary department. Broad, long halls, spacious, well-lighted and well-ventilated wards, absolute cleanliness throughout, lend at once a cheerful and favorable impression, and reflect creditably on its executive department. Accommodations are offered for about one hundred and twenty-five patients, the private or secret apartments inclusive, which latter are for the reception of unfortunate frail of the better class, and is made remunerative to the institution. The "getting up" period occupies eight days, the week bed so called, when a transfer is made to the Foundling Hospital, where the children are left, or not, as optional.