

HOSPITAL NOTES.

From New York Hospitals

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To the Editor:—I would like very much to be able to send you something interesting for MEDICAL SCIENCE, but I have not taken full notes of clinics, and as you may suppose I have not much time to prepare anything specially for publication.

Perhaps the best thing will be to send you a condensed report of the operations I witnessed this afternoon. Some points noted may be of interest to some of your readers. The Polyclinic bulletin this morning announced operations by Dr. Gerster, at the German Hospital at 12. a.m., and at Roosevelt by Prof. Sands at 3.30 p. m.

Dr. Gerster, you will remember as he who delighted us all with his paper and discussions at Ontario Medical Association meeting in Toronto last summer. He is a very good operator and may be represented in his work as *cleanliness* personified. I have not in the city seen nor heard any reference to Listerism as applied by spray, but asepticism by cleanliness is practiced in all operations. Prof. Sands being also a favorite operator, we decided to make the operations of both our afternoon's programme.

At 11.45 a. m., while Dr. Gibney, Prof. of Orthopaedic Surgery at Polyclinic was dilating in a most interesting and instructive manner on the importance of rest in chronic arthritic troubles, we had to quietly slip away, catch the *elevated* train and reach the German Hospital at twelve.

On arriving, we found everything in readiness for the operation.

Case, Hydrocele: Patient anaesthetized, scrotum shaved and thoroughly washed with soap and water, then disinfected by *perchloride* solution; sac. laid open and carefully examined lest some cysts might escape notice, or there might be congenital communication with the peritoneum. None of these complications being present, it was washed out with carbolic acid solution; a drainage tube introduced and wound stitched with cat-gut, and dusted with iodoform; drainage tube secured by a *disinfected* safety-pin; aseptic pads slipped beneath the ends of pin, and the whole covered with

oil-silk, and over this several pads of aseptic crinoline and absorbent cotton, and over all a thick pad with hole in the centre for penis, and all firmly bound down by a double spika bandage. The dressing is to be undisturbed till ninth day, when tube will be removed and wound re-dressed.

I give minute details in order to give some idea of the extreme caution exercised by Dr. Gerster to avoid the possibility of the wound being contaminated from without. I omitted to state that the douche of perchloride was repeatedly turned on wound during the operation.

Case 2.— Removing an atheromatous tumor from above and external to the outer angle of the eye, in a child two years old. What was most noticeable about this, ordinarily considered a very simple operation, was that the Doctor exercised the same care and precautions as if it were the most difficult and dangerous. The head of the child was carefully wrapped in a towel steeped and wrung out of an antiseptic solution, lest the fingers of some assistant touching the hair might infect the wound; and a drainage tube of cat-gut ligature was used, and dressing applied as securely as in the last operation.

Case 3— A man, aged 60, had phlegmonoid inflammation of elbow, arm and forearm, and pointing at inner condyle. Patient being anaesthetized, same cleansing process was gone through as in the other cases; abscess was opened, and a large quantity of pus escaped. On examining the joint some caries was found to be present. It was scraped away and the joint opened in three places, each supplied with a drainage tube. Then the whole of the inflamed surface on arm and fore-arm was punctured, literally peppered with punctures, and the aseptic solution kept playing upon it until bleeding ceased, when the arm was carefully put up in aseptic dressing.

We now hurried away to Roosevelt Hospital which was reached at 2.40 p. m. This Hospital has the reputation, among students, of having good operations, and Prof. Sands is among the favorites. He is a middle aged man, stout, and of medium height, is baldheaded, has sharp, dark eyes, and wears a heavy moustache.

We were fortunate in securing a seat giving a