

## ANTISEPTIC DRESSINGS AS THEY ARE USED AT THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL.

Dr. Robert F. Weir, of New York (*New York Medical Journal*, Jan. 19, 1884), contributes a paper with the above title. He says: "What we still aim at in the treatment of wounds is to place the divided or injured parts in such a condition as to permit of the best possible drainage, and to keep them at rest as long as may be without frequent renewals of the dressings; and for the accomplishment of the latter end we are forced to use such chemical substances as will prevent decomposition."

In the New York hospital corrosive sublimate is used almost exclusively as an antiseptic upon gauze or jute. The sublimated gauze is prepared by immersing the bleached material in a solution as follows: Corrosive sublimate, 20 parts; water, 4,480 parts; glycerine, 500 parts, for 12 hours, then wringing out, and allowing to dry, as far as the glycerine will permit. At the time of operation a sublimate solution, 1-1000, is allowed to trickle slowly but nearly continuously over the incision; bleeding vessels are tied with sublimated catgut. The wounds are united with catgut or sublimated silk and the continuous suture is employed. Dark rubber drainage tubes or decalcified chicken bones are introduced in proper positions, and after carefully cleansing the wound by injecting the bichloride solutions through the tube, gauze handkerchiefs are placed over the centre of the incision and considerable pressure exercised. Over these handkerchiefs peat, jute or other absorbent material is used. No impervious protective is used over the dressings, as, by retaining the moisture of the dressings and the sweat, it is thought to act too much as a poultice.

If after a few days there is staining of the dressings, douche the parts anew with bichloride solution and apply an additional mass of sublimated cotton or gauze over the wound. "We do not change the dressing until we find some decided evidence that things are doing wrongly \* \* \* I should consider an elevation of temperature persisting for twenty-four hours a sufficient reason for removing the dressing and searching for the cause."

Metallic instruments must be immersed in a 5 per cent. carbolic solution, as the bichloride will form an amalgam with them. In the New York Hospital not only is the part to be operated upon washed with soap and water, but also with turpentine and alcohol—two ounces to the pint. Great care is taken to carefully prepare and disinfect sponges, and if they have been used in vagina, rectum or other uncleanly localities they are destroyed after using, otherwise they are carefully cleansed and kept in an antiseptic solution.

Finally the principle of rest should be carried out thoroughly.

"In the north of Germany corrosive sublimate has come to displace iodoform and carbolic acid almost entirely; iodoform is used to some extent in southern Germany, particularly in Vienna; but the healing of wounds I found was more satisfactorily produced in the hospitals of Kiel and Hamburg under the sublimate dressings than anywhere else that it was my good fortune to visit. \* \* \* I myself have not seen, so far, any poisonous effect from the use of the sublimate solution."

R. W.

## A METHOD PROPOSED TO SECURE CHILDREN AGAINST ATTACKS OF DIPHTHERIA.

Dr. F. Peyre Porcher: Acting upon the theory that diphtheria (whether or not it may depend upon a specific germ) is at its inceptive stage local, and has its seat in the fauces, which, if impressed or modified by suitable agents, will not offer a nidus for its reception, Professor Porcher proposes as a prophylactic the following:  $\mathcal{R}$ . Tinct. ferri chlorid., 2 to 3 drams; potassii chloratis, 2 to 3 drams; quiniæ sulph., 15 to 20 grains; sodii hyposulphitis, 1 to 2 drams; alcoholis, 1 ounce; aquæ, 6 ounces. *M. Sig.*—A teaspoonful to a dessertspoonful three times a day in water. To be used by those who are exposed to the disease.

The author has used this formula for a number of years as a prophylactic for diphtheria in many families whose members had been exposed to the disease, and states that he has never known a case of diphtheria to occur where it was so employed.

Evidence is not wanting from other sources of the value of the medicines above named, especially the muriated tincture of iron and potassium chlorate, both as a prophylactic and cure for diphtheria.

The same formula is said to be serviceable in scarlet fever. And with two or three drams of acid tartrate of potassium, in lieu of the hyposulphite of sodium, it has proved of great value in the treatment of erysipelas, ulcerative sore throat, cellulitis, and diseases of the lymphatic system.—*Louisville Med. News.*

## A NEW TREATMENT FOR TAPE-WORM.

J. G. Brooks, M.D., of Paducah, Ky., in a communication to the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, says as follows:

"I have had within the last three years several cases of tape-worm to treat, and finding such strong objection to the large draught of medicines in ordinary use, I prescribed the following:

$\mathcal{R}$  Chloroform,  
Ex. male fern, aa fl. 3 j,  
Emul ol. ricini (50 per cent.) 3 iij. *M.*

*Sig.*—All to be taken at once after twenty-four hours' fast.