

THE EMPLOYMENT OF SPANISH MOSS AS A SURGICAL DRESSING.

Dr. Louis McLane Tiffany, of Baltimore, recommends the use of Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) as a soft and elastic wound-dressing. This is prepared for commerce by being dried and beaten so as to free it from bark.

He usually has the moss made into cushions or pads of about six inches by four inches, and two inches thick, cheese-cloth being the material employed as a covering. The pads have been made of other dimensions; in one or two cases of mammary extirpation with extensive axillary dissection, pads large enough to envelop nearly one-half of the thorax were employed, but he finds no advantage in the use of such large cushions, and the size given has proved very generally applicable.

The pads are adjusted outside of a gauze-and-cotton dressing, and the bandage applied snugly, the elasticity of the moss serving to distribute the pressure evenly about the chest wall, as after a deep axillary operation. He has been especially pleased with the pads. A fact of a good deal of importance is that when exposed to the action of moist heat in a sterilizer the moss remains elastic, so that the cushions are prepared with the other dressings for each operation.—*Medical News*.

TOMATOES AND CANCER.

Why or wherefore, it is impossible to say, but in some unaccountable fashion the impression has come largely to prevail among the public that tomatoes are a cause of cancer, and that for this reason the delightful vegetable in question must be eschewed. The only connection that we know of between cancer and tomatoes is that within past years there has been a large augmentation in the death rate from cancer, and an enormous increase in the consumption of tomatoes.—*Medical Press*.

[The real reason for the above statement is that some year ago some myopic investigator claimed that he found in tomato juice a cell that looked like cancer cell. He was fool enough to give it as his opinion that therefore cancer was caused by eating tomatoes.—*Am. Practitioner*.

WARM SUBLIMATE SOLUTIONS.

Dr. Ahl has found, on the ground of numerous bacteriological and clinical experiments, that an application of heat to sublimate solutions increases their antiseptic powers, and at the same time diminishes their poisonous and corrosive effects. His conclusions are as follows: 1. The antiseptic action of a solution is increased by heating it above 40° C. (2) A solution of 1-20,000 or even 1-10,000, heated to 40° C., may be used without danger in penetrating wounds

of the lung, pleura, or peritoneum. The bactericidal effect corresponds to that of a 1-500 cold solution. (3) A solution heated to above 40° C. stimulates the formative properties of the tissues and accelerates the healing process. On the other hand, a cold solution of 1-1,000 has less antiseptic action than a warm solution of 1-10,000, because the latter penetrates more deeply. (4) The cut surfaces unite more rapidly than when a cold solution of 1-500 has been employed, because of the absence of caustic effects. (5) Warm and weak sublimate solutions may be used with perfect safety as regards poisonous and toxic effects.—*Internat. Pharmac. General-Anz.*

ANOTHER REMEDY FOR PERSPIRING FEET.

The Medical Press says that Dr. Winogradoff recommends a 5 to 8 per cent solution of chloride of zinc as an application for the prevention of undue perspiring of the feet. He begins by ordering the feet to be well washed in tepid water, and then dabs on the solution, wiping off the surplus a few minutes later. The application is best made at night, and may require to be repeated a week later. It acts as a caustic, destroying the sudoriparous glands, and should never be used except by the medical man himself.

TREATMENT OF ERYSIPELAS.

Dr. Koch treated numerous cases of erysipelas with the following ointment:

R Creolin,	3 i.
Iodoform,	3 iii.
Lanolin,	3 i.

This ointment is spread as an even, smooth layer over the affected skin and its surroundings, on an area of at least two to three inches to the outside of the inflamed parts. The whole is covered by a piece of mackintosh. Dr. Koch selected creolin in the above prescription because he thought that it was possessed of first-class disinfectant properties, without sharing the dangerous after effects of carbolic acid. Iodine, which is derived from the decomposition of iodoform, stimulates absorption of inflammatory products. Lanolin has been chosen because it penetrates the skin best of all ointment bases.—*Amer. Prac. and News*.

CHRONIC GONORRHOEA.

Dr. Roieki recommends injections of ergotine in chronic gonorrhoea. He recommends it as a promptly acting remedy. The injections of the same are borne very comfortably by the patient. He prescribes it in the following formula:

R Ergotine,	grs. vj.
Aq. dest.,	3x.

M. Sig.: Three to six injections daily.—*Deut. Med. Woch. Med. Review*.