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ON THE TECHNIQUE OF THE PRESERVATION OF WAR MATERIAL.

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In the preparation of war material for Medical Museums one of the most important questions is that of transportation both of the specimens and of the fluids required for their fixation. To this end the preservation of natural colour, which is essential whenever the character of the specimen permits, should be carried through as simply and with as few media as possible, while bone specimens should be rapidly dried and sent forward in an easily portable and antiseptic state.

MOIST SPECIMENS.

Moist specimens must be obtained fresh from the autopsy or operation, and not allowed to soak in water for more than a few moments. Only the superfluous blood should be washed away, remembering that the one colour available for preservation, with the exception of the faint colouring matter derived from bile staining, etc., lies in the hemoglobin of the red blood corpuscle, and that this therefore must be preserved. The basis of the methods of colour preservation which are in my judgment to be recommended lies in the chemical change produced by the action of formaldehyde upon the hemoglobin of the red