

The patient is able to watch the operation, and at times is given some simple refreshment during its progress. There is never any sickness, the patient never loses a meal, and the wound heals up just the same.

Somnoform is used extensively at Guy's as a general anesthetic for minor operations, such as opening abscesses, removing toe nails and the like. Its effects are those of complete anesthesia for a couple of minutes, and is perfectly safe.

Dusting powder is never used here on operation wounds ; just the plain double cyanide gauze, and bichloride wool on top. Quite a few use collodion and gauze. Barker very often uses collodion and gauze to close the surface wound, without any stitches. The scar is very small and in a month is practically gone. Two hooks in the hands of an assistant are introduced, one at each end of the wound, and drawn in opposite directions. The effect of this is to closely approximate the margins of the wound, and while in this position the gauze and collodion are applied and pressed down snugly.

I saw something new in the line of varicose veins of the legs that I never saw demonstrated before. It is this, that in a great number of cases the trouble is due to regurgitation from the femoral vein into the saphenous. It is demonstrated most conclusively in nearly every case I have seen by stripping the blood up out of the leg while the patient is in the recumbent position, and then holding the finger firmly over the vein in the saphenous opening causing the patient to stand up. As long as the pressure is kept up you will find the veins will not fill up ; but immediately it is removed they fill at once from above downward, the blood rushing in from the femoral. A cure is effected by tying the saphenous as near to the femoral vein as possible. The operation takes from five to ten minutes.

One thing, in particular, I noticed is insisted on is that tubercular abscesses are not left open after incision for the purpose of drainage. It is claimed that when left open it is certain to become infected. After opening they are cleaned out fully by scraping, douching and antiseptics, and then closed up as carefully as possible.