

BLEEDING.

A handkerchief, or better still, a piece of broad tape is to be carried twice around the arm, generally the left, a few inches above the elbow and tied in a bow. This is with a view of distending the vein by obstructing the return flow of blood. In some arms, more especially the arms of men, the veins are very prominent, and this method might almost, in some cases, be dispensed with. In women, especially those of the luxurious class, the arm is generally round and fat. In such people the veins are most often invisible until the flow is obstructed, and even at times so obscure are they, that a more than usual amount of pressure is required to make them show up. This being done, the operator is to choose the one he intends to open. The median cephalic and median basilic are the two veins which present themselves for the operation. The median cephalic is generally the one selected, because it is the safer. The median basilic is generally the larger, and, consequently, yields the better supply of blood. It has, however, the disadvantage of lying directly over the brachial artery, which might, by an inexperienced or careless operator, be wounded. As this artery is at times in an unusual position, it is well under all circumstances to satisfy yourself of its actual situation. This can be done by slightly flexing the elbow, and searching for its pulsation. Having made up your mind which vein you will use, the operator takes his position either in front, or a little to one side, and grasps the arm with the left hand, the thumb of which serves to steady the vein. Holding the lancet, which should be of small size, between the thumb and second finger, the first finger resting on the top, with a sweep of the wrist he makes an incision (not merely a puncture) into the selected vein. Especial care must be taken not to cut the vein in two. An assistant should stand at the patient's side with a large bowl (generally a tea-slop bowl), to receive the blood. It is well that the operator wear an apron and sleeves over his shirt sleeves or coat sleeves. This is to prevent his clothes being soiled, for nearly always the moment the vein is cut a spurt of blood occurs. The moment the cut is made in the vein, the arm is turned to one side and the bowl placed so as to receive the stream of blood. Writers tell us that in the operation not a drop of blood ought to go on the floor or