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SEPTICEMIA AND THE CURETTE.

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To attempt to break up an old established custom in any line of life is at best a thankless job, and one likely to call down harsh criticism upon the head of the daring iconoclast.

To attempt to uproot old prejudices existing in favour of a certain line of practice in surgery, and diametrically oppose such practice, is to invite from some, adverse criticism of the harshest kind. The only recompense for this is a logical refutation of, or concurrence in the argument advanced, on the part of other members of the profession.

This latter is what I hope for, and if I provoke a discussion, or start a line of thought in the minds of half of the readers of this article, I shall have achieved all I started out to do.

Curetting the uterus to remove fragments of after-birth or other debris has been taught in our Medical Schools from time immemorial, and it is firmly fixed in the receptive and retentive mind of every Medical student that the first move following any such abnormal uterine condition is to cleanse the uterus by means of the curette.

That the organ should be thoroughly and aseptically cleansed admits of no argument, but that the work should be done with the curette I deny most emphatically.