

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF ACCIDENT.

Accidents more or less serious are occurring, so frequently in daily life, particularly among mechanics, that every member of a family should consider it a part of his education to know "*what to do and how to do in case of accident*," as a long interval of time may elapse before medical assistance can be obtained, and even the sufferer may perish from the want of sufficient surgical knowledge on the part of his family how to stop the effusion of blood. We quote a few remarks on this subject from a small manual by Mr. John Phin, editor of the *Technologist*.

"Little danger need be apprehended from ordinary cuts, even of considerable extent, provided no important blood vessel or other organ is injured. In case of a clean cut, the blood should be stanchied by bathing with cold water, and all extraneous matter should be removed with a soft, clean sponge. The edges of the wound should then be brought together by strips of sticking-plaster, a space being left between the strips for the escape of any blood or fluid. When a wound is large, and the edges gape, or where there is a piece of skin not quite separated, stitches may be usefully applied together with plasters. They are formed by passing a needle and thread about a quarter of an inch from the edge of the wound, from without inwards on one side, and from within outwards on the opposite one, and then fastening the ends of the thread together with sufficient tightness to prevent the surfaces from separating. One or more stitches should be made, according to the extent of the cut, an inch or more apart from each other, and between these the parts should be supported by strips of adhesive plaster. If the cut be on a limb, a roller or bandage should be gently passed around it. The stitches must not be drawn together with too great force, or they may cut through the parts. They should not remain in too long. They will generally have answered every useful purpose in forty-eight hours; but when they do not cause irritation, they may be left in for three or four days. They may then be removed by cutting the threads and drawing them away by the knot. When stitches are used a bandage is not always necessary. A piece of lint spread thinly with cerate will generally be sufficient.

"A torn or lacerated wound may be caused by a hook or nail, or any blunt instrument. The wound and torn portion must be carefully cleaned with a sponge and water, and laid in the position from which it was torn. The edges must be brought together by stitches and sticking-plaster and the whole covered by a poultice or water-dressing. Where parts are torn, provided a portion remains united, they may be managed in this way with every probability of union taking place. The nose when nearly separated from the face has been united by careful adjustment of the parts.

"Wounds arising from blows or falls require prompt treatment; but generally the immediate danger arises from shock to the system, and until the arrival of the doctor, our efforts should be directed to making the patient as comfortable as possible, lessening the pain and keeping up the vital forces. Warm applications, such as a large bread poultice, or hot fomentations by means of frequently renewed flannels, should be made to the wounded parts. These soften the skin and relieve the pain. In some cases cold water is most refreshing. In every case of a severe wound of this kind a surgeon should be immediately called, but in cases of slight contusion it is desirable to avoid the disfigurement which results from blows on the countenance. The best example of this form of wound is the ordinary "black eye," which frequently proceeds from other than disreputable causes. The injured part must be kept at rest, and covered with cold, wet cloths; or it may be bathed or kept moist with the following preparation:

Tincture of Arnica.	1 ounce.
Muriate of Ammonia.	1 drachm.
Spirits of Wine.	2 ounces.
Water.	3 ounces.

"When applied to wounds on children it should be diluted with one-third to one-half its bulk of water. This solution has an admirable effect in preventing inflammation and excessive discoloration. We may here note that the common specifics for a black eye, such as beef-steak, &c., are very good, but no better than so much cold water.

"Sprains are the result of straining or tearing the ligaments of a joint. They are attended with very severe pain, often causing faintness and vomiting. There is generally considerable swelling. If the injury is at all severe a surgeon should be consulted at once, as it is often difficult to ascertain whether dislocation or fracture has taken place. "It would be better to break

a limb than sprain a joint," says Mr. South; "the former in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred being cured in the course of a few weeks, if the skin have not been broken; whilst the effects of the latter may at best remain for weeks or months as weakness or stiffness in the joint." Perfect rest of the injured joint is the only effectual means of cure. Warm, moist flannels should be repeatedly applied to the sprained joint for some hours, and a bread and water poultice on going to bed. These should be continued for a few days. If the pain continues to be severe leeches may be applied. When the tenderness has subsided, a vinegar poultice is a very good application, as it produces a diversion of the low inflammation going on in the ligaments by bringing out a crop of pustules on the skin, at a time when pressure from rubbing with any stimulating liniment cannot be borne. When the pain has entirely ceased, the joint must be very carefully used.

"The best remedy for ivy-poisoning is said to be sweet spirits of nitre. Bathe the parts affected freely with this fluid three or four times during the day, and the next morning scarcely any trace of poison will be found. If the blisters are broken to as to allow the spirits to penetrate the cuticle, a single application will be sufficient.

"The wounds inflicted by bees, wasps, and hornets are exceedingly painful, though not often dangerous. To relieve the pain of such a wound, extract the sting, which is always left behind by bees, and bath the parts with cold water, or apply a good poultice of common clay mud. Liquid ammonia mixed either with the water or the mud will prove of service. All liniments which require rubbing are bad as tending to irritate the part and diffuse the poison. Above all avoid scratching the wound."

As mechanics are very liable to accident, these instructions should be particularly borne in mind. — Ed. C. M. M.

The *Scientific American* thus describes the latest Yankee notion: "Imagine, ye mothers of large families, who ruefully contemplate dilapidated socks by the dozen, after the week's washing, with visions of strained eyes and tired backs floating across your minds: imagine a little apparatus infinitely more simple than the sewing machine, which repairs the hugest darn in much less time than we can describe the operation, and far more neatly than you can do it with all your years of practice. This is what it is. Two small plates, one stationary and the other movable, are placed one above the other. The faces are corrugated, and between them the "holy" portion of the stocking is laid. Twelve long eye pointed needles are arranged side by side in a frame, which last is carried forward so that the needles penetrate opposite edges of the hole, passing in the corrugations between the plates. Hinged just in front of the plate is an upright bar, and on this is a crosspiece carrying twelve knobs. The yarn is secured to an end knob, and then, with a bit of flat wire, pushed through the needle eyes. Then the loop between each needle is caught by the hand and hooked over the opposite knob, so that each needle carries really two threads. Now the needles are carried back to their first position, and, in so doing, the draw the threads, which slip off the knobs through the edges of the fabric. A little push forward again brings the sharp rear edges of the needle eye against the threads, cutting all at once. This is repeated until the darn is finished, and beautifully finished it is. The inventor is Mr. O. S. Hosmer of Boston, and we predict for him the blessings of the entire feminine community. The cost of the machine is but ten dollars."

TO CEMENT GLASS ON BRASS. A cement is used by Fisher which is particularly serviceable, says the *Druggist's Circular*, in attaching the brass mountings on glass lamps, as it is unaffected by petroleum and all of the class of burning-fluids. It is prepared by boiling three parts of resin with one part of caustic soda and five parts of water, thus making a kind of soap, which is mixed with one-half its weight of plaster of Paris. Zinc-white, white-lead, or precipitated chalk may be used instead of the plaster; but when they are added, the cement will be longer in hardening. It has a great adhesive quality. The possibility of dissolving it to remove the mountings will recommend it to many persons.

SOFTENING AND TOUGHENING WOOD.—G. W. SWAN, of San Francisco, states that if blocks of wood intended to be used for cutting veneers are first boiled or steamed in a solution of ammonia and borax, they will not only become soft and easy to cut, but the veneers formed from them will retain their flexibility for an indefinite length of time.