

was welcomed by the Public Orator, Dr. Sandys, as a son of Æsculapius, whose friendly professional relations to Mr. Gladstone might suggest his playing the part of Machaon to the Nestor of English eloquence, or perhaps he might prefer to be compared with that excellent speaker Asclepiades, the friend and physician of the most eloquent Roman of the time, L. Licinius Crassus. In presenting Dr. Jonathan Hutchinson, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, the Orator said they could not separate him from his brother and immediate neighbor, especially as both these eminent representatives of the two branches of the medical profession had been colleagues as professors at the London Hospital, and were now at the head of their respective colleges.—*Hospital Gazette*, June 14, 1890.

FINGER NAIL DIRT.—The *British Medical Journal* of May 24th, 1890, says: The progress of bacteriology has shown that aseptic surgery means scientific cleanliness; the same lines of investigation show how very dirty people can be. Seventy-eight examinations of the impurities under finger nails were recently made in the bacteriological laboratories of Vienna, and the cultivations thus produced showed thirty-six kinds of micrococci, eighteen bacilli, three sarcinæ, and various varieties; the spores of common mould were very frequently present. The removal of all such impurities is an absolute duty in all who come near a parturient woman or a surgical wound. It is not enough to apply some antiseptic material to the surface of dirt; the impurity must be removed first, the hand antisepticated after. It is sometimes said that the scratch of a nail is poisonous. There is no reason to suspect the nail tissue; it is more likely the germs laid in a wound from a bacterial nest under the nail. Children are very apt to neglect to purify their nails when washing hands; and this matter is not always sufficiently attended to among surgical patients. Personal cleanliness is a part of civic duty, and, as Dr. Abbott well expressed the matter in his address to teachers, should be taught to school children and insisted on in practice. The facts we have recorded might well form the text for a school homily, especially when any epidemic was in the neighborhood.