

CLINICAL NOTES FROM LONDON HOSPITALS.

EVEN for the student who has spent much time in American hospitals, clinic and out-door departments, there awaits, should he decide to spend a year or two in the London hospitals, much that is instructive, a great deal that is entertaining, and withal many surprises. They certainly take great trouble in teaching what is actually the matter with a patient, and to make you give reasons for the faith that is in you, but I must confess that the operative technique in the General Hospital in Kingston is infinitely superior to that here, and yet they get good results. All the errors in surgery do not occur on your side of the Atlantic. Yesterday, at Middlesex hospital, I saw something that would have amused you greatly. A chap came into the hospital with a history of having been operated on in Vienna two years ago for stone in the right kidney. Ever since the operation he has had a discharging sinus, and which had been scraped eleven months ago. The discharge was not urine, but sero-pus. Pierce Gould put him on the table and proceeded to scrape away the sinus wall. At the bottom what should he find but two old gauze sponges which had been left behind by some careless operator or his dresser.

Just lately Dr. ——— was up before a coroner's jury for leaving a pair of Spencer Wells' forceps in the abdomen, and I see in the papers this week that a lady doctor is being sued for leaving a large sponge in the same cavity.

I have seen several good results in the local anesthesia line, especially in the service of Barker. He uses eucaïn and adrenalin with excellent results, even in such major operations as those for the removal of the appendix, for hernia, amputations of the leg, removal of tumors, excision of the semilunar cartilages, and the like. From 100 to 200 cc. of a very weak solution, made fresh for each operation, are injected into the whole surrounding sensitive area some fifteen or twenty minutes before operation. The effects last about two hours.