



## Selected Articles



### THE USES OF PERHYDROL

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Hydrogen peroxide ( $H_2O_2$ ) was employed in surgery before the days of antiseptis. It fell into disuse because of its unreliability, its instability, and its acid impurities, which caused irritative action. Of late years, however, a perfectly pure form of  $H_2O_2$  has been prepared, and this has received the commercial name of Perhydrol. It is a clear, transparent liquid, containing 30 per cent. by weight ( $=$  100 per cent. by volume) of  $H_2O_2$  in aqueous solution.

The therapeutic actions of  $H_2O_2$  consist of disinfection, hemostasis and deodorization.

To begin with general surgery. It may be used for irrigating, for moist bandages, compresses and topical applications, for gangrenous or ulcerative states of the skin, etc. A gangrenous area should be irrigated with a 3 per cent. solution, bandaged with a moist dressing of Perhydrol of the same strength. The bandage should be removed two or three times daily owing to the loss of oxygen. Ulcers may be treated with compresses soaked in a 3 per cent. solution of Perhydrol. They should be kept on for a quarter of an hour, twice daily, and then dressed with boric solution. This treatment cleanses the diseased surface very rapidly and healthy granulations spring up.

The deodorizing action of this substance is best recognized by using it in 3 per cent. solution in cases of advanced cancer, empyemata, gangrenous and foul ulcers. To hasten the separation of sloughs or the core of an abscess wet compresses of a 1 per cent. solution are useful.

Perhydrol also possesses its applications to special branches of surgery, as the following details will indicate: In rhinology, the syringing of the nares with a 3 to 5 per cent. solution is an effective means of loosening crusts and removing mucus.

The hemostatic action of Perhydrol is extremely useful in nasal operations such as the removal of polypi. The tampons