

Selections.

SURGICAL HINTS.

A film of collodion is an excellent protective material for granulating wounds. It can be made in the manner recommended by Stuart McGuire, by pouring collodion on an aseptic glass plate, and after it has hardened carefully cutting it into strips.

In cases of greenstick fractures of the forearm it is generally advisable to complete the fracture; otherwise there is apt to be considerable deformity owing to the formation of a mass of callus on one side at the seat of fracture, destroying the symmetry of the limb.

In lacerated wounds of the hand free drainage is of paramount importance. Tissues irredeemably destroyed should be snipped away with scissors, as more can thus be saved than with the knife. In suturing the rule is few stitches and no tension. Amputation must always be the last resort.

In a syphilitic, as in a tuberculous, individual joint affections may follow a sprain, and the two conditions may resemble each other so closely that a diagnosis is very difficult. In cases of doubtful tuberculous arthritis, especially in adults, it is well to examine for evidences of syphilis and to try the effects of specific medication.

Neurasthenic persons are apt to imagine that they suffer from all sorts of diseases. If such a patient once gets the idea of having appendicitis he is very likely to develop hypersensitiveness and painful areas over the abdomen, as over McBurney's point. Given such a combination of extreme tenderness over this area with constipation and abdominal distention due to intestinal gases, and it is sometimes difficult to diagnose the case from chronic appendicitis.—*International Journal of Surgery.*