

principles of dealing with infected wounds. A high value is placed nowadays on peroxide of hydrogen, but I cannot satisfy myself that it has any special usefulness in these cases. It is very difficult to estimate the value of medications applied to wounds in removing infection and hastening repair, for cleansing and healing usually take place rapidly under congestion and natural processes.

Granulating and mildly infected wounds do well under sterile gauze wrung out of warm "parabolic" applied twice daily. Sterile wounds require a dab of tincture of iodine and a pad of sterile gauze daily or less often. Occasionally an obvious abscess requires opening, an ill-draining sinus enlarging, or a cellulitis incising. In the absence of constitutional disturbance it is well to wait for definite evidence of these conditions. Doubtful spots should not be incised if the temperature is normal.

The best procedure in ward dressings is as follows. The "dresser" wears rubber gloves throughout, the lotion is warm "parabolic" 1 in 40, parabolic being one of the British equivalents of the German lysol. Between each dressing the gloved hands are washed in soap and water and rubbed with the lotion. Wool dabs are used in the lotion, gloved hands rinsed in it, and instruments kept in it. The whole process is simple and expeditious. Bare hands get infected and infect clean cases. Fresh rubber gloves for each case are unnecessarily time-consuming and costly. To use sterilized gauze for mops in these infected cases is unnecessary.

The prolonged hot iodine bath for limbs is very useful; three or four hours at a time alternating with the fomentations. Whilst in the bath the patients are encouraged in the use of muscles and joints.

I am accustomed to say in speaking of limb injuries "Do not think of the wound, think of the limb below it. Endeavor to minimize the crop of cripples which this war will bring forth." Everything possible must be done to prevent stiff joints, atrophied, paralyzed, glued-together muscles, lengthened tendons, loss of grasp, dropped hands, and dropped feet. Later we shall have war hospitals which by electricity, by massage, by hot-air baths and by mechanical and surgical methods are endeavoring to cure what might have been in many instances prevented by carrying on side by side with the wound treatment, treatment calculated to restore the usefulness of the limb.

The patients must be stood over at the time of their dressings and carefully and methodically put through different movements and exercises. With the arm, for example, the patient is told to