

tent conversation is permissible in the operating-room. It can be laid down as a safe rule that the less said during an operation the better. The conversation itself may be distracting to those engaged in the operation and the forced expiratory efforts required in speaking may carry infected air to the wound. When the surgeon or assistant has to speak the face should, if possible, be turned away from the field of operation. All pompous airs are alien to, and very unbecoming in the operating-room, as the human body is the most complex and wonderful of all the Creator's work in the physical world, and as many factors pertaining to disease yet remain the most profound of all mysteries.

The deportment of assistants and nurses should be characterized by strict and courteous attention, and by alertness and dexterity in the discharge of all the duties assigned them.

The deportment of spectators, when present, should be in line with that observed in church service. Joking or disputing, or what is not infrequently seen, brushing dusty spots off their coats,—all these are boorish and entirely out of place in the operating-room.

In conclusion, can it not be truthfully stated that in no other place can scientific attainments, ethical refinement and moral goodness be better exemplified than in the discharge of the duties pertaining to the operating-room?