

should be prevented, the whole surgical world was revolutionized: but his methods were criticised as cumbrous and unnecessarily complicated. To-day it seems as if in the effort to simplify the method of obtaining asepsis in a wound an equally, if not more difficult line of procedure is adopted by some surgeons.

Two years ago the immortal founder of antiseptic surgery in an address in Glasgow "Admitted that many of the earlier details of the antiseptic method which were deemed essential were unnecessary; that the development of the method in every detail had been toward simplification, whilst the fundamental principle had remained unaltered and unassailable." This teaching, as was well said, brings the "Practice of antiseptic surgery down from the clouds to the level of ordinary mortals again," and in this truth lies the justification of the Country Practitioner undertaking to do an aseptic operation, yea more, lays upon him, as upon the surgeon operating in a hospital, the full responsibility of suppuration in a wound he may make through unbroken skin.

At the risk of taking up more of your time than you may feel like allowing me, let me briefly outline what has proven a safe and simple mode of securing asepsis.

First, as to the preparation of the patient; The object to be sought is what? thorough cleanliness—the removal of "gross dirt" combined with disinfection of the skin. To this end the parts must be thoroughly scrubbed with green soap dissolved in alcohol and ether. This is to be followed by shaving when necessary, and let it be borne in mind that not only does the razor lend efficient aid by removing hair, but also by scraping off dead epidermal scales. Next, an application of saturated solution of Pot. permanganate may be applied, and the stain removed by saturated solution of oxalic acid and hydrogen per-oxide; and a final wash off with corrosive sublimate solution 1: 1,000. For the operators hands we have an almost similar process: scrubbing and soaking in the Pot. Permanganate and oxalic acid, washed off in water previously sterilized by boiling. The instruments are readily and thoroughly sterilized by boiling in water to which soda has been added. Ligatures may be prepared by soaking in carbolic acid solution 1: 20; or where silk or silk worm gut is used, by boiling. For the dressings: steaming, as in the Arnold sterilizer, or the house-wife's pudding steamer is excellent, while absorbent wool or sheet wadding can be baked in the oven. The site of operation is to be surrounded with towels previously sterilized by heat wrung out of solution of bi-chloride of mercury, and the operator must carefully avoid touching any article not surgically