

spleen and kidneys, operations on liver and gall bladder, operations for extra-uterine fetation—all of these are being constantly and safely performed, until a skeptic might begin to wonder whether any one abdominal organ was absolutely necessary to the animal economy. In minor surgery the effect of modern asepticism is perhaps best seen in the treatment of burns and compound fractures, accidents which are among those most commonly met with in our hospital wards.

Who amongst us does not remember the honor of having to dress an extensive burn, day by day, for weeks after its infliction?—the agony and moans of the patient, the horrible stench from the decomposing sloughs, the rivulets of pus flowing from the burnt area, the demoralizing effect upon patients in adjoining beds, so great that it was frequently necessary to remove them from the wards. Not, however, by the employment of antiseptics, amongst which must be placed facile principles, picric and boracic acid, for they exert all the good and none of the ill-effects of other antiseptics, a revolution has been worked in the treatment of burns which I hold to be one of the most striking in surgery. In compound fractures we have the same thing. The patient with a compound fracture of the leg is now confined to bed about as many weeks as he formerly was months, and, moreover, the number of amputations for compound fractures has been greatly lessened.

Conservative surgery has received a great impetus of recent years through the same means. The extensive operations on tuberculous joints, by which many limbs which were formerly sacrificed, are now preserved, and some new methods of remedying deformities, such as Calot's operation for straightening angular curvature of the spine and transplantation of tendons in paralysis are most noticeable.

But gun-shot wounds from the modern arms of precision, both in their infliction and results, are amongst the most interesting and astonishing facts that have come to our knowledge within the past twelve months. The small, nickel-plated, elegant-looking projectile of the Lee-Metford or Mauser rifle, which has replaced the clumsy leaden bullet of the Snider, will traverse the human body, at a distance of two or three miles, as if it were so much paper; but with this comes the comforting assurance that the wounds inflicted by these projectiles, if they do not kill outright, will frequently heal in a very rapid and satisfactory manner. Pus, the bane of old-time gunshot wounds, is practically unknown, this being partly due to the clean-cut nature of the wound from the high velocity of the bullet, and partly, no doubt, to the fact that every one in the field carries with him sewn up in the lapel of his coat, an antiseptic dressing, simple but effective, and easily applied to the wound as soon as inflicted.