

pulseless, extremely pale, gasping for breath, very restless, and in fact nearly moribund.

Sent for a medical colleague, and by our united efforts succeeded in rallying her, and restoring consciousness after a time of great anxiety. After this unfortunate occurrence the patient suffered from a severe attack of peritonitis as well as more or less metritis. She made a slow convalescence, and would never again have a repetition of the vaginal douche.

Such cases have been observed, most likely, in most medical men's experience. The conditions necessary to cause this accident, I believe, are far from uncommon, hence we should be careful not to expose our patients to the dangers involved in this occurrence. Every nurse should be taught to give a safe and efficient vaginal douche, and be made aware of the fact that the point of syringe may be passed through the os into cervical canal in a certain number of cases, and especially if the long nozzle is employed. Under such circumstances the patient receives, instead of a vaginal an intrauterine douche, and is exposed to the dangers incident to the Procedure.

The fountain syringe with short nozzle is to be recommended to nurses, and they must be made familiar with its safe introduction and manipulation as well as with the accidents which may follow its use. The point of syringe is to be kept well posteriorly in the vagina to avoid the os during its introduction. This kind of syringe is safe, easily kept clean, aseptic, and in good working order.

PREFERABLE METHOD OF STERILIZATION AND STORAGE OF CATGUT.

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So many unsatisfactory results have followed the use of improperly prepared catgut, as evidenced in circumscribed or diffuse inflammation and supuration, that it is highly important that the surgeon should obtain the most thoroughly safe and reliable suture material. Taking the ground that catgut furnishes this ideal, we proceed to demonstrate a method by which we secure its sterilization without impairing its durability or strength. Before taking up the sterilization of

catgut, we would suggest that in purchasing the material, the preferable is that put up in bowlines,* each one yard long and rolled separately in bunches, as sold by Keller, Nassau St., New York. We select the bowlines because they are more easily prepared and more handy to manipulate in operations.* We thus do away with reels which are cumbersome, besides the solutions and heat having free access to each particle of the material thoroughly permeates the tissues of the bowlines: whereas if the gut is on reels the deeper layers are not so completely influenced; again, during an operation a sufficient number of bowlines can be removed from the glass storage bottle with a pair of sterile forceps without infecting the rest of the catgut.

The method to be commended:

1. Place bowlines in pure ether for one week*.
2. Place in a glass vessel with a glass or screw stop (sterilized), containing 1 in 2000 corrosive sublimate in pure ether for one week.†
3. Place catgut in a bottle with a screw top (sterilized), pour in absolute alcohol to cover gut. Screw down top tightly and put bottle in a glass sealer containing water which reaches nearly to screw top of catgut bottle, replace top on sealer which is set in water to be heated to the boiling point, and maintained at this temperature for 15 minutes; at the lapse of which time catgut is ready for use. During the boiling a small quantity of the alcohol evaporates and there is no danger of an explosion even with the top screwed down tightly. Only a comparatively short portion of the surgeon's time is engaged during the process already described, in return for which he has an absolutely sterile material. After the first step every precaution must be taken to insure surgical asepticism, such as sterilization of all articles used in the process, and antiseptic preparations of the hands.

The *modus operandi* is easily explained:

The ether thoroughly removes the fat from the catgut. The bichloride of mercury dissolved in ether disinfects, increases the durability and does not lessen the strength of the material.

As to the alcohol, it is well known that it is not a germicide,‡ if it contains germs the latter will

*Bowlines were first used as routine by R. T. Morris, New York.

†R. T. Morris' method of sterilization of catgut.

‡Sternberg's Bacteriology.