

mend a torn garment. He then closes with needle and thread the wound he had made, dusts on a little powder and applies a pad and bandage, all of which have been carefully disinfected. The article once disinfected was not allowed to again touch an unclean thing. Even the boiled wads of cotton were handled with disinfected forceps and used instead of sponges. In this case you inform our visitors that it is an operation for appendicitis, to save life. Again you are told that they never heard of such a disease, and while the patient is being wheeled out in a state of blissful unconsciousness of what has happened, giving no evidence of suffering, the third party, who had watched the whole process in bewilderment, was especially surprised at the effects of chloroform, for he had never heard of its use although he lived until I was sixteen years old.

In these days of aseptic surgery and anaesthesia many are the triumphs of the surgeon's knife that the older men would have rejoiced to see. Doubtless many abdominal operations were performed and tumors removed long before the germ theory was established, but the results were so unfavourable that many surgeons would not attempt them at all and condemned them as unjustifiable in others. The sacrifice of life either with or without operation was very great. Now these operations are undertaken as readily as the minor operations and with every hope of a favorable issue.

The remedies and the treatment of diseases have changed very much. Then the staple "stock in trade" was to bleed, blister and give calomel. But, though each remedy had bold advocates and was useful in some cases, even now holding feeble grip, all have fallen greatly into disfavor. Then every doctor had in his pocket a silver or leather case with two or more lancets. If a patient was feverish or had symptoms of inflammation, the lancet was called into immediate use and from ten to twenty or more ounces of blood were removed by venesection, generally from a large opening and with the patient in a sitting posture, as the more likely to induce syncope with least loss of blood. This, or a near approach to it, was a result looked for.