

first placed, with a soft, elastic, warm, and evenly pressing material round the whole limb; remember, for ten days in two cases, and for six and three in the others. The second interval of rest, too, lasted for seven and six days respectively in the first and last cases.

Our experience, then, in these instances would seem to show that, as regards the securing of mental rest for the patient and physiological rest for the wounded part, this mode of dressing has shown itself admirable. To my mind, I must admit that in this respect it goes far beyond the old method of simply laying the stump, covered with oiled lint, on a pillow. For here we have all this, and in addition firm elastic support to the muscles all the way above the wound; a support no less grateful to the patient, as diminishing the tendency to spasm, than important to the flaps as combating their retraction. I cannot but think, too, that the absence of all variations of temperature about the wound must be of considerable importance. This the permanent dressing of dry cotton-wool prevented, by its bad conducting properties. Changes of temperature, particularly in a wound, mean disturbance of the equilibrium of the nerve-forces of the part, and consequently disturbance in its nutrition, the very thing we are doing our utmost to avoid.

In two of these cases I should have left the first dressings on much longer if it had not been incumbent upon us to remove the drainage-tubes and stitches. But these had done their work, and at the end of ten days, or even earlier, were only irritant foreign bodies.

This leads me to speak of drainage. That this was adequate, was indicated by the absence of unpleasant sensations on the part of the patient and of marked rise of temperature. Had there been tension of serum, blood, or pus to any noteworthy degree, both of these factors would have been present. Moreover, the secretions were fairly distributed through the wool around the wound, and had to a large extent dried up; so that, at the end of ten days, we found only a very small quantity, perhaps a couple of ounces of viscid pus, about the line of the wound.

We come now to the question of cleanliness, and how far its requirements were met

in these cases. You have seen that, in applying the dressing, we went a long way in this direction. Now, during the ten days which elapsed before their removal in Cases 1 and 4, and six days in Case 3, what evidence had we that all was clean around the wound? First, there was the temperature chart to guide us. You will see by it that in all cases we had a rise towards the second day, and then a fall again. This ascent probably corresponded to reaction after the shock of the operation. It may have been due to the accumulation of a little serum within the flaps. At all events it was slight, and, moreover, transient. In Case 4, this was hardly present at all, but was followed on the fourth day by a rise to  $101.4^{\circ}$ , for an hour or two, after which the temperature gradually fell to normal, and remained nearly so until the end of the case. In Case 1 it slowly rose until, on the tenth day, we had  $102.6^{\circ}$ , after which it fell, and remained at nearly normal throughout. In the other two cases, I am not sure that the rise on the sixth and seventh days was not due to other causes than the wound. You must remember that in Case 2 we had well-marked evidences of phthisis, with spitting of blood. But in none of the cases had we a persistently high temperature, or one that called, in my opinion, for removal of the dressings. Next, we had no unpleasant sensations on the part of the patient to indicate tension, etc., in Cases 1 and 4. In Case 3 we had a slight sense of contraction about the wound, from the description like what would be caused by the drying of the blood on the dressings. This was on the fifth day. Another indication as to the cleanliness of the first dressing during the long interval before its removal, we gain from our sense of smell. Now, in Case 1 there was no odour at all from the wool during the first ten days; in Case 2 a faint sickly odour like dry blood was, I think, perceptible on the eighth day. But you may remember what difficulty some of you had in determining whether there was or not. On this day, when I was not present, Mr. Banks tells me that there was a great difference of opinion on the point among the class going round with Mr. Heath, but that the greater number were inclined to follow Mr. Heath, who was kind enough to