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THE MODERN TREATMENT OF TETANUS.

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A SURGEON who had to treat a case of tetanus, say, ten or twelve years ago, found his operative measures rather restricted. Perfect cleanliness and even antiseptic dressings for an open wound; the removal of any foreign substance which might have entered the tissues at the time of the accident; an incision to remove an accumulation of pus; the stretching of the nerve leading to the wound, or possibly the amputation of the injured part would represent the surgical treatment.

In Ranney's "Lectures on Nervous Diseases, 1888," Hammond, who analyzed the results of treatment by drugs and surgical procedures in typical cases of tetanus, is quoted as saying, that "some of the cases apparently recover, rather in spite of drugs than by their direct aid. He thought that large doses of chloral, combined with large doses of bromide of potassium, give as much relief to the patient as any known treatment. The application of ice-bags to the spine, combined with the internal administration of half a grain of the extract of cannabis indica, every two hours, may be attended with good results." Ranney also advises that the patient should be placed in a darkened and quiet room, and every precaution should be taken to avoid a recurrence of the paroxysms. The patient may often be nourished by means of a tube passed behind the last molar tooth, and through the pharynx into the stomach, or may be put under the influence of an anesthetic and a tube introduced between the teeth, or, when that is impossible, through the nostril into the stomach.