

tality was appalling. I never saw a case of strangulated hernia recover after operation. The great Billroth presided over the chief surgical clinic and his mortality was quite as great as his neighbours. In England there had always been more or less attention to cleanliness, and the results of English surgery were fairly good, so that they were on this account much slower to take up antiseptic surgery, feeling quite satisfied with their results. In Germany and Austria, the change from septic to antiseptic surgery worked a miracle, from being laggards in the surgical field, the Germans became leaders and many of the triumphs of modern surgery are due to the good work of the Germans. They were not satisfied with the modest little steam boiler of Lister, but went to extremes, and had a ten horse-power boiler in a special room adjoining the operating room, and from it poured out volumes of antiseptic spray till the operators, patient, and assistants were wet to the skin and the atmosphere was worse than a London fog. Soon men found out that quite as good results were obtained by irrigation so the cry was "*fort mit dem spray*", and the boilers became obsolete. Now there was a Niagara of antiseptic solutions, the operator and his assistants waded about the operating room in long rubber boots. Visitors who had no boots got on chairs and watched the deluge of antiseptic lotions which played continually on the patient and on the floor. Soon it was found that this was doing too much and Aseptic Surgery came in, deluging with antiseptics was abandoned, and dry dressings were adopted, with aseptic and sterilized materials and the patients did quite as well. The tendency to-day is to simplify methods and to abolish the elaborate antiseptic ritual which succeeded to the days of dirty surgery. What the next new fad will be, I cannot say, but owing to our increasing knowledge of bacteria and their influence on the tissues our methods are becoming much modified. As was said of Mrs Mapp, a celebrated quack, who flourished in the last century :—

"In physick as well as in fashion we find,"

"The newest has always the run with mankind."

Byron has said,

"Thus saith the preacher. Naught beneath the sun
Is new, yet still from change to change, we run.
What varied wonders tempt us as they pass,
The cow-pox, tractors, galvanism, gas,
In turn appear, to make the vulgar stare,
Till the swollen bubble bursts, and all is air."

So far I have spoken only of the hospitals, our college teaching, except in the Practice of Medicine and Surgery was most elementary. Our anatomy was a farce. I never, as a student, dissected the pharynx, the thorax, or the abdomen. We used to toss up as to who should take out the intestines and the abdominal organs. The anatomy of hernia and lithotomy together with the arteries of the extremities comprised all the surgical anatomy. The anatomy of the convolutions of the brain was