

Dr. Piletier uses saw-dust made into pads with purified and sublimated gauze as absorbent dressings for ordinary surgical wounds. He recommends the dust obtained from soft and absorbent woods as white pine, poplar or basswood. It is purified by immersion in a bichloride solution, and then dried in the open air, made into pads and kept in air-tight vessels until required for use. It absorbs more readily and easily if moistened with a bichloride solution immediately before using. Dry iodoform powder is also sprinkled on the surface of the pad and applied to the wound. By stitching through and through the pads at several points, their proper shape is preserved and uniform pressure or support maintained over the wounded parts.

Yours, etc., A. B.

THERAPEUTICS.

Electro-Therapeutics.

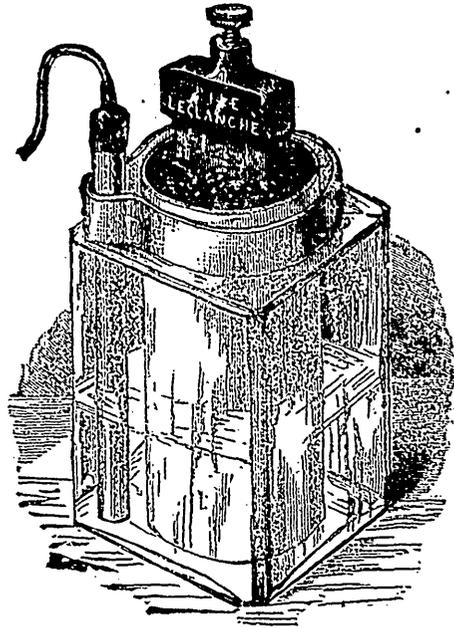
In setting up this gravity cell the copper plate is placed in the bottom with a layer of crystals of copper sulphate on top of it, the zinc plate is now suspended in the cell as per cut, and sufficient water poured in to cover it. When the cells have been arranged in order in some situation where they will not be disturbed, the terminal zinc and copper are connected by a short wire for two or three days until the solutions have separated and the battery is in working order.

To keep it going it is only necessary to supply water for what is lost by evaporation and to occasionally drop some crystals of copper sulphate through the opening in the zinc plate. The zincs require to be cleaned about once in six months.

The Leclanché cell is another form of cell much in vogue for constant batteries, and is the form used by Apostoli. The principal objection to it is that when it becomes exhausted the porous cup and carbon have to be replaced by the makers, as the battery is patented. The porous cup contains a carbon plate, surrounded by a packing of a mixture of gas coke and manganese dioxide. The exciting fluid is a nearly saturated solution of ammonium chloride.

This cell has an electromotor force of $1\frac{1}{2}$ volts, which is a considerable advance over the gravity cell; it also has the disadvantage of running down in strength in a very short time, an hour or two,

whereas the gravity element may be short circuited for three or four days without affecting it.



The arrangement of the different parts of the cell is shown in the cut.

Experimental Dietetics in Lunacy Practice.

BY J. LEONARD CORNING, M. D.

In the *New York Medical Journal* we notice that Clark ("Edinburgh Méd. Jour.") observes that the result on gastric secretion of using the oral or nasal tubes for forced alimentation is to evade the operation of a physiological process which is aptly described by Lauder Brunton as follows:—"The effects of mastication are not limited to the changes produced by it in the food within the buccal cavity; the taste of savory meat, the rolling of a sweet morsel under the tongue, and the movements of mastication exert an influence upon the stomach and upon the brain. In a case of gastric fistula, where cesophagus was occluded, Richet noticed that the mastication of food induced secretion of gastric juice, although nothing could pass from the mouth into the stomach on account of the obstruction of the gullet." The same phenomenon is known to occur when food enters the stomach, for the bile and pancreatic secretions are called forth in anticipation of the exercises of their respective functions. There can be no question, therefore, that the loss of natural stimuli constitutes a serious objection to