

again what a change had taken place ! Hospitals and operators clean to excess ; operations never hitherto attempted performed successfully, a very low surgical mortality, and surgery invading every region of the body and annexing territory which formerly was thought to be the exclusive domain of the physicians.

In 1874 I visited Edinburgh to see Professor Lister's work and a great impression it made upon me. John Cheyne was then his house surgeon and if I remember aright he manipulated the hand spray of carbolic solution which was used during the operation and dressings. What struck me most was the excessive care of Lister in his dressings, the great attention to detail and cleanliness ; and in operating, his great deliberation. The spray was used on the supposition that most of the germs which infected wounds came from the atmospheric dust ; when Lister found that the atmosphere was comparatively harmless and that the organisms were on the skin of the patients and the hands and implements of the operator he abandoned the spray. As many of you may remember, the hand spray was replaced by a steam spray. In Germany this was furnished by a large boiler placed in an adjoining room which poured forth carbolic acid spray into the operating room and covered everybody with a thick Scotch mist ; in fact one could scarcely see across the room and to protect oneself waterproof clothing had to be worn. This of course was German excess. Later von Bruns led a crusade against the spray and "fort mit dem spray" was the cry and soon the spray was replaced in Germany by irrigation. Niagaras of water were poured over the patient and the field of operation, so much so that the floors were flooded and the onlookers had to get on chairs whilst the operator and his assistants waded through the flood in long rubber boots.

Soon irrigation became out of fashion and aseptic and dry dressings were adopted which in ordinary surgery are used to the present day. In military surgery asepticism is impossible and resort is once more being had to antiseptics with the best results.

The scope of surgery in comparison to what it was forty years ago is enormous—no cavity of the body is now shunned by the surgeon ; had such advances been prophesied in the middle of last century the lunatic asylum would have been thought a fit place for the prophet.

As I have said before one of the great troubles after amputation was secondary hemorrhage—one saw hanging out of