

areas about which the patient is naturally very sensitive about having them exposed.

From the results obtained by the nascent chlorine method for preparation of the skin in emergency cases, I have come to feel that perhaps this short and simple method for preparation of the skin was all-sufficient, and that we might do away with all of the preparation except shaving; even this now seems to be apparently unnecessary, if a method which I have employed for the past six months continues to be as satisfactory as it has up to the present time. I refer to the removal of the hair with depilatories which contain various sulphides. The sulphides of some of these depilatories are powerful germicides, so that when the hair is removed the superficial epithelium is sterilized completely at the same time, and the whole preparation of the skin at the site of a prospective operation can be done in five or six minutes. I experimented at first upon a series of rabbits, using a number of the sulphide depilatories and not making further preparation of the skin. Primary union was obtained in practically all of the incisions. I then gradually extended the experiments to patients in cases in which not much harm would follow if we did not have complete sterilization, and in these cases also the depilatories seemed to be thoroughly effective in making an aseptic field for operation. The two depilatories that I found best are a powder known as foral and a gelatinous semi-fluid called sulphur starch. The first is mixed with water and is spread over the surface from which the hair is to be removed, and the second is applied directly; the foral acts a little more quickly than the sulphur starch, but the latter has some advantage in being immediately ready for use and is somewhat less expensive. I had both of these preparations analyzed. The foral was reported to consist of sulphides of calcium and of zinc, of oxides of calcium and of zinc and to contain some starchy powder. The sulphur starch was reported to consist of sulphides of half a dozen metals embodied in a semi-fluid vehicle. Some of the depilatories with which I experimented were inert and some injurious to the skin, but these two seemed to be harmless, and the hair grows out at once afterward, as after ordinary shaving.

The simplest method, then, for preparation of my own hands I have found to be the employment of a nascent chlorine method, and the simplest preparation for the skin of the patient, the use of one of the sulphide depilatories. Experi-