

aroused from their lethal sleep and introduced into one of our thoroughly clean, properly equipped, germ-proof operating theatres to witness a critical operation under the modern technique, and to follow the case and note the rapid cure that follows operations under modern cleanliness. They would be gratefully surprised.

Imagine the aggressive little surgeon Dickson advancing, and the larger Dr. Sampson looming up behind, and another whom I did not know, for he died before I was sixteen years old—that is before chloroform was used. Let them come in just as the operator removes such articles of clothing as might have germs on them, dons his clean, white, disinfected robe—after having thoroughly cleansed his hands—his assistants also being as carefully groomed as himself. The trained nurses likewise going through the same routine, clad in spotless garb and white caps, stand around ready aids. The instruments are either boiling in hot water or being bathed in chemical solutions, with needles, ligatures and sutures. By this time, I think, they would become puzzled to know what all this fuss is about, and still more surprised when they saw no sponges around, but instead wads of cotton being boiled for use. Let one of the young assistants, out of courtesy, try to explain what is going on. He points to a shallow tray in which some instruments are placed. "This," he says, "is a solution of carbolic acid, 1 in 20, and that a solution of bichloride of mercury." Little Dickson would likely say "all new to me—for such uses." You tell them, these are used to destroy all germs of disease lest they infect the new made wound, set up suppuration and other unfavourable processes, and thus prevent a rapid cure. He would reply, "it is all very strange. When I lectured to the boys at the college I always praised the appearance of 'creamy, laudable pus.' My wounds did better when bathed in it." "But," you tell him, "we consider the presence of pus odious; we destroy, if we can, all causes of it." Our visitors turn to leave just as the operator deftly and boldly opens up the abdominal cavity and, rummaging around in the bowels, picks up and clips off whatever diseased portions he finds, or stitches up rents and holes as you would