

times its weight of water. The *New York Medical Record* of last week contains a letter from Dr. Lydstone, of Chicago, advocating the use of punk or spunk, a substance used by dentists to dry out cavities in teeth. I show you a piece, part of which when tested was found to absorb 11 times its weight of water. I have not been able to obtain wood-wool from the paper makers here. That shown and also the peat came from Germany. Both are exceedingly cheap, costing only six or eight cents per pound in original packages. Specimens of each are shown as they come to us, others impregnated with equal parts of corrosive sublimate and glycerine in 200 parts of water, and still others, sewed in bags of sublimate gauze ready for use. The wood-wool is made from pine of non-resinous character, is soft, cottony in texture, elastic, and clean to work with. I prefer it to any thing excepting the cottons, which cost many times as much, or peat which costs about the same. Wood-wool collapses when thrown into or saturated with water. On this account the roller first applied should not cover any dressings containing it or the pressure may not be maintained and the result may be compromised. It has, as was recently pointed out by Lister, in the discussion at Woolwich on antiseptic field surgery, the same composition as cotton rags, which may replace it if used in sufficient mass. Dr. F. Lange, who is perhaps the best exponent of German antiseptic surgery in this country, is partial to borated cotton arranged in thick sheets and covered with sublimate gauze. I show you a "compound borated dressing" prepared as he directs.

The story of the introduction of turf, mould or peat may be new to some here present. About four years ago a man applied to Dr. Neuber, assistant to Esmarch in Kiel, relating that ten days before he had while working on the moor sustained a severe injury to the fore-arm. To this had been at once applied a thick coating of mould and a rude splint. On examination the wound was found free from suppuration and either united or granulating well, though there had been compound fracture of both radius and ulna, rupture of the wrist joint and extensive laceration of the soft parts. Neuber followed up this broad hint as to the value of peat, and its use has been attended by rapid and satisfactory healing of the parts it protected. A special advantage of peat is its power

to absorb the gaseous products of decomposition, such as ammonia. Used as a litter for horses the same beds have, according to Dr. Ernest Hart, been in use for two or three months. It absorbs best when slightly dampened, is soft, as you see, and very elastic.

In conclusion, I do not propose to enter into any recital of cases or statement of results. The method advised is one of the antiseptic methods, and results obtained by it belong to that system, the beneficent influence of which can be as little questioned as can be the good to mankind that followed the discovery of the hæmostatic use of the ligature, or the anæsthetic use of sulphuric ether. The materials required can all be carried in a small satchel, and all be purchased with what would be only a fair fee for their first use.

MANAGEMENT OF THE THIRD STAGE OF LABOUR.*

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GENTLEMEN:—The management of the third stage of labour is always full of interest because it is so closely connected with *post-partum* hæmorrhage. The object of this paper is chiefly to discuss Credé's method, a method lately warmly advocated by some prominent obstetricians. Unless properly limited it may bring disappointment to the practitioner and disaster to the patient. The third stage, like the preceding ones, is a strictly physiological process and requires no assistance as long as the conditions are normal. When, however, the conditions are pathological, then alone is interference justifiable. When the uterus has been for a length of time vigorously engaged in the previous stages it is naturally more or less exhausted, and before commencing the third stage requires a period of rest. After this rest contractions occur spontaneously, at first gentle, then gradually increasing in power; each contraction separates a portion of the placenta, and simultaneously closes the sinuses, and finally expels the whole contents of the uterus. The efforts thus begun continue till all danger of hæmorrhage is past.

This is Nature's method and can never be improved by Art. During this process the accoucheur is only a watchman, keeping the hand over the uterus, to warn him should internal hæmorrhage

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