

amputation, the flaps are thoroughly irrigated for two or three minutes before they are brought together; and even after the parts are adapted, the cavity of the stump is again washed through the drainage tubes previously introduced, care being taken to squeeze out any superfluous acid. No matter what the subsequent antiseptic that is used in the dressings, the one used in the irrigation is always carbolic acid.

Iodoform, salicylic acid, peroxide of hydrogen, and naphthalin are all in use here at present, especially the first mentioned. Each of these agents is considered by their respective users to be the most trustworthy antiseptic known. It is difficult to arrive at the truth where there is so much contradiction.

Iodoform is always used in the form of what is called *iodoform gauze*, which is made in the following manner. The ordinary gauze cloth is drawn through an alcoholic solution of resin, to which has been added half the quantity of glycerine; the iodoform is then dusted on as long as it will adhere. An ounce of iodoform is sufficient for 30 yards of the cloth. Gauze prepared in the above way is used in nearly all operation cases, but especially in those about the mouth and throat. In these cases particularly it is considered to have a great advantage over carbolic and all other forms of antiseptic gauze. Billroth considers that in these cases especially it is the direct means of saving many lives. It is a well known fact that after operations on the mouth, death often follows from pneumonia and general septicæmia. The former complication is especially dreaded on account of its great fatality. This form of pneumonia runs its short and lethal course in a very insidious manner, and if the patient is not carefully examined, it may escape the surgeon's notice altogether. There is no doubt whatever about the high antiseptic qualities of iodoform. The following case, which was a severe test, is a proof of this: A man, aged 40, received on the 29th of October a severe compound and comminuted fracture of both bones of the right leg. The soft parts were extensively lacerated. On his admission into hospital a few hours afterwards, several pieces of bone, which were loose, were removed, and the wounded surfaces thoroughly irrigated with a 1 to 30 solution of carbolic