

played in the form of a paste made with whitening and linseed oil, and gave very fair results, remarkably lessening suppuration. Later, the gauze, spray and McIntosh were employed, and wounds connected with fractures were treated like wounds in other parts with the best results, but with an infinite amount of trouble. Still later, iodoform and bichloride of mercury came into vogue, and dry and infrequent dressing of the wound with some antiseptic absorbent material, such as cotton-wool, jute, peat, wood-wool, etc., surpassed any method that had previously been employed. This method of treatment I shall shortly describe, the results have been most excellent, and, armed with a knowledge of modern antiseptic surgery, no surgeon need now dread treating a compound fracture of the leg, even if the bones be comminuted and the wound large.

Compound fractures being most common in the leg, I shall describe the treatment adapted to such a case. The method is as follows* :—

When called to treat a compound fracture of the leg, if there is severe hemorrhage and the wound is small, it would be better to enlarge it and search for the bleeding point. Having arrested all hemorrhage and placed the fragments in proper position, the wound should be thoroughly irrigated with a solution of 1-1500 of mercuric bichloride and then dusted freely with iodoform; over this, some washed gauze wrung out of bichloride solution is placed over the wound, and over this a pad of finely-carded sublimate jute, covered with bichloride gauze, and dusted with iodoform. This pad is kept in place by an antiseptic gauze bandage, and the leg placed in a McIntyre or other splint. The pad, if there be much oozing, should be removed next day and a new one applied, but the gauze over the wound had better not be disturbed. After this the dressings should not be changed unless the temperature and general condition of patient indicate that something has gone wrong in the wound. In my cases, as a rule, the second dressing has been left on a month, with result of finding, on its removal, the wound perfectly healed. If the

* In describing this method, it is, of course, understood that before treating the wound the surgeon's hands and instruments should be rendered aseptic by the usual means, a description of which is unnecessary here.