

CURLED HORSEHAIR IN PLACE OF A SCRUBBING-BRUSH.

W. S. Forbes, in the *Pennsylvania Medical Journal* for July, 1899, says that ordinary curled hair forms one of the best mechanical devices for cleansing the skin that has yet been discovered. In its preparation about three drachms of curled hair is employed, and this is easily shaped by the hands into a loose pad about the size of the hand. When desired, the flattened mass may be held together by stitching with sterilized silk, catgut or other aseptic material, but this is optional. When once fashioned, it will hold its shape without change. It cannot cut or tear the skin, and it is easily cleansed with boiling water before and after each surgical operation. A solution of bichloride of mercury, 1 to 100, and steam to 100° do not act upon it. It may be kept in alcohol after being sterilized, and is thus always ready for use. It is cheap and efficient, and is far superior to the scrubbing-brush of tainted memory.—*Medicine*.

CHRONIC ULCER OF THE LEG.

I have laid down this rule : An ulcer situated above the middle of the leg is syphilitic, regardless of history. I make it a rule to examine the heart, lungs and kidneys in all cases, as disease of any of these organs interferes with the local treatment. For instance, if the heart is diseased, passive congestion and œdema of the lower extremities are of frequent occurrence. Proper attention, then, to this organ, when compensation is possible, will greatly facilitate getting rid of the ulcer. But simplicity, cleanliness and the proper time to interfere are the sheet anchors in all cases. But, as to drugs, I have as yet to find one which will equal pure carbolic acid.—JOHN B. CORSIGLIA, *New York Medical Journal*, N. Y. Med. Rec.

SURGICAL HINTS.

EXAMINE the urine in all cases of pruritus, eczema, gangrenous lesions, furuncles and anthrax. A certain proportion will show the existence of diabetes.—REMEMBER how frequently constipation aggravates prostatic obstruction. Some prostatic cases are immensely benefited by careful attention to this important detail.—IN APPENDICITIS, when the pain keeps on increasing, the pulse remains rapid, and the temperature remains high, delay in operating will soon be con-