

are iodoform, acetanilid and amyloform gauze. It should be remembered, however, that the iodoform, is not of itself antiseptic.

The preparation of the medicated gauze should, of course, be conducted under aseptic precautions, the hands being aseptic, the table on which it is prepared being thoroughly cleaned with 1 to 500 bichloride of mercury; and iodoform, if iodoform be used, should itself be sterilized. This can best be accomplished by securing pure iodoform crystals, known to the trade as "non-conglutinating," putting them in a glass vessel and pouring over them a 1 to 500 aqueous solution of bichloride of mercury. This should stand for at least twenty-four hours or the iodoform may be kept in this condition until ready for use, when the fluid is poured off and the iodoform dried by slow heat.

For suppurating or slowly granulating wounds, old sinuses, boils, and the like, there is probably no better dressing than the combination called balsam and oil spread upon ordinary sterile gauze. The formula for this mixture is 5 per cent. of balsam of Peru and 95 per cent. of second grade castor oil. This second grade oil should be insisted upon, as this is one of the few cases in which the cheapest is the best. The first grade is cold pressed from the seed, and the second grade is obtained by boiling the seed in water, the oil floating to the top and being there collected. The temperature of the boiling water, of course, renders the second grade oil sterile. This dressing, which was originated by Prof. Van Arsdale, is applied by folding six or eight thicknesses of ordinary sterile gauze and pouring on a sufficient amount of balsam and oil to almost saturate the gauze. This is applied next the wound, and over the whole a sheet of rubber protective is placed so as to reach just over the margin of the dressing. The results obtained have been excellent, as it secures free drainage, healthy stimulation to the granulating surfaces, and is itself a non-irritating though weak antiseptic.

Absorbent cotton had best be bought ready prepared, though it may be prepared without very much trouble from

ordinary raw cotton by boiling it for one hour in a solution of common lye and water, about one to one hundred and fifty. Then it should be soaked in pure water for twenty-four hours, the water being frequently changed to rid it of the excess of alkali. Then boil it for an hour in pure water and dry by slowly baking it.

Bandages can be made from ordinary unbleached muslin, taking 5 yard lengths and dividing into strips from one to four inches in width. These can be rolled on the knee or bandage roller.

Sponges may be made from strips of sterile gauze which is generally used for this purpose. Should, however, the marine sponge be desired, soft, close-meshed sponges should be selected, and sand removed by pounding them with sticks. They may then be placed for twenty-four hours in a solution of hydrochloric acid, one to thirty, then removed and washed in warm water till the free acid is removed. They should then be steeped for half an hour in a solution of permanganate of potash, thirty grains to a pint of water, washed thoroughly in plain water, and placed in the following solution: Hyposulphite of sodium, five ounces; hydrochloric acid, one ounce and water, two pints. After two hours remove and rinse thoroughly in warm water. They should then be placed in sterilized glass jars.

Rubber protective or rubber tissue is in thin sheets and should be bought from an instrument maker, or may be obtained from one who sells milliners' supplies.

Irrigators are frequently useful. They may be bought ready for use or can be improvised by knocking the bottom out of a large kettle, inverting it and inserting in the mouth a cork stopper which is perforated by a short glass tube. A rubber tube conducts the fluid to the desired point. Continuous irrigation may be carried out by suspending a bucket of the solution above the surface to be irrigated, and inserting a twisted wick of absorbent gauze, one end being immersed in the solution, the other lying outside the bucket. This soaks up the solution which generally drops on the surface to be irrigated.

Drainage is always an important