

after knife operations; and relapses are much delayed. Nussbaum ascribes these advantages partly to the absence of loss of blood, and partly because the nerves and blood vessels, being covered with cicatrix, are protected from the influence of the air. —*Physician and Surgeon*, July, 1883. *Phil. Med. News*.

ANATOMY, SURGERY AND HYGIENE OF THE RECTUM.—In an article with the above title published in the *American Practitioner*, July 1883, the author, Dr. Joseph Eastman, concludes with the following advice:

1. That the rectal anatomist dispense with his drawings exhibiting the rectum distended, or borrow the contracting powers of Thomas and add one with it closed.

2. I would urge the rectal surgeon (for purposes of diagnosis and operation) to utilize the expansive genius of Sims in throwing the rectum open.

3. I would urge humanitarians to insist that at least one-third as much time be given to unloading the alimentary canal than they take in filling the same.

4. I believe it is the duty of philanthropists and sanitarians, especially such as are so anxious to serve on boards of health, to see that water-closets invite, not repel. Health boards should inspect every store, factory, and place of business, to see that clerks and employees, male and female, have such privacy and privileges of access to closet accommodations as the importance of the case demands.

5. I would beseech of doctors, philanthropists, sanitarians, and all others interested in humanity, to teach on all proper occasions the pernicious consequences of carrying a load of feces in the bowel until it is absorbed, and its odor escapes from the emunctories of the skin, or adds to the not infrequent unpleasant aroma of the human breath.—*Med. Med. Jnl.*

SAWDUST DRESSINGS.—H. P. Symonds, in the *Lond. Lancet*, uses coarse sawdust as a surgical dressing. The sawdust is soaked in a 1 in 10 solution of absolute phenol and spirits of wine, and then allowed to dry slightly. When used it is enclosed in a bag made of several layers of gauze, and applied outside the deep dressing—the usual external dressings being placed over it. The sawdust then takes the place of the padding of loose gauze. Its absorbent

power is very great, and it keeps up equable pressure. The three great points in its favour are—its powerful antiseptic property when saturated with carbolic acid, its great absorbent power, and its adaptability to any surface. The sawdust should be coarse, as, if fine, it may pass through the gauze and irritate the parts.

BLEACHING SPONGES.—The following process was, says *New Remedies*, devised by Mr. John Borham, and has been in use in Bellevue Hospital for a considerable time:

Soak the sponges, previously deprived of sand and dirt by beating and washing, in a one per cent. solution of permanganate of potassium. Then remove them, wash them thoroughly with water, and press out the water. Next put them into a solution of one-half pound of hyposulphite of sodium in one gallon of water, to which one ounce of oxalic acid has been added, and leave them in the solution for fifteen minutes. Finally, take them out and wash them thoroughly. By this treatment the sponges are rendered perfectly white. Many sponges contain a more or less dark-colored, brownish core. If treated only with permanganate and acid, the core is either not bleached at all or if it has been somewhat bleached, the tint is apt to grow again darker. By the above modification, every portion of the sponge is rendered white, and remains so. —*South. Clinic*.

OCCLUSIVE MIXTURE:—

Camphor	3 ss
Mastic resin.....	3 i
Balsam of Peru	3 ss
Sandarac resin	3 xx
Sulphuric ether	3 x
Alcohol.....	3 x

Dissolve the resins in the mixture of alcohol and ether, shake frequently, let it settle and decant. Wet a bit of cotton in this solution, introduce it into the cavity of the carious tooth, and press it in.—*L'Union Med.*

BLEEDING BY ASPIRATOR.—Charles Copping, F.R.C.S.E., writes to the *Brit. Med. Journal* as follows:—In a case where venesection was indicated, and where the friends of the patient objected and were horrified at the operation, I introduced the needle of the aspirator under the skin of her neck