

the opposite side, the limb is soon off ; not a groan issued from the man ! All now take a full inspiration, shuffling of feet is heard, the dreadful suspense is over and all shake hands, saying wonderful ! miraculous ! Anyhow, time is of less importance now, and so operations on internal organs are performed occupying an hour or two, or even more, which, without the use of ether, could not be performed at all. Moreover, the surgeon is neither embarrassed by sympathy, nor hurried on account of the shrieks or groans of the patient. Do not imagine that patients always shrieked, or screamed or groaned loudly during an operation. Very many did not, the fortitude, pluck and endurance of these poor people, men and women too, now excite my wonder and admiration. Less courage may be required to go to the gibbet. Englishmen can endure anything ; at least they used to, and I cannot help thinking that the use of anaesthetics for trivial operations is an abuse, educating the people into greatly exaggerated conceptions of pain, and so making them timid.

With regard to Antiseptics. In my early days too the surgical wards, although apparently scrupulously clean, were pervaded by a sickly unpleasant odour, arising from sloughing or suppurating wounds, poultices included. Wounds would sometimes take many weeks to heal. To hide this nasty smell, the nurses sometimes carried cascarilla bark in a brazier through the ward, but later, at the recommendation of Sir William Burnett, chloride of zinc was substituted for purifying the air, and as an application to wounds, and with very beneficial results. Although the germ theory of many diseases was then popular, water dressings used and great cleanliness inculcated, still it was not generally known that these sloughing erysipelatous, contagious and suppurating wounds were caused by organised pernicious bodies. It was left to Lister and Pasteur to demonstrate these, devise the remedy, which has since been elaborated. Dr. Davie will explain all these matters ; but it does appear that the chief benefit accruing from the use of antiseptics, arises from the absolute cleanliness demanded. I say absolute cleanliness, this means the destruction of all injurious bacteria, absolute purity of the surgeon, of the instruments, in fact of everything and everybody in the room, including, of course, the