

if you will postpone the operation until Friday, as my daughter is to be married on Thursday, and we do not want the corpse home until after the wedding."

This fearlessness is often coupled with an ignorance that demands surgical treatment where only medical is justifiable. The treatment is too slow to bring about the desired results, and they frequently ask, "Don't you think an operation will cure me?"

Operative surgery has increased to an enormous extent during the past few years. The wonderful results which have been achieved since the introduction of aseptic surgery; the improved diagnosis of the early stage of cancer in all parts of the body; the absolute safety with which operations are undertaken for the relief of deformity and disease, have given the public every confidence in surgical treatment.

One of the most useful of the recent advances, as a means of diagnosis, is the X-ray photography. When first introduced, its use was limited to the finding of bullets, needles, and pieces of metal embedded in the body, also to the direction and condition of all varieties of fracture, and to the localization of calculi in the kidney and bladder. Its uses are now further increased. It is employed for the detection of tubercular deposits in the lungs, and pleural effusions can be distinctly seen with the displaced heart pulsating.

Improved methods of applying this photography have rendered its use so simple that in some hospitals nearly all fractures are looked at both before and after they are put in position. This is done by placing the patient on an ordinary canvas stretcher, the Crooke's tube is placed under the body, and a picture of the bones is thrown on a ground glass screen held over the patient's affected limb. In many cases this has saved the patient much suffering, and valuable time—when the soft parts are interposed between the ends of the bone, or in a riding fracture—as the fractures may have been cut down upon, the muscles, or loose fragments removed, and the bones brought into direct apposition.

Another advance, in the same direction, is Finsen's phototherapy—the method of treating local superficial skin diseases of bacterial origin by the concentrated chemic rays. It is the blue, violet, and ultra-violet rays of the spectrum that possess the most powerful action. This apparatus—which up to the present time is very costly—is installed at a few of the London hospitals, and the results in the treatment of lupus vulgaris and lupus erythematosus are said to be most satisfactory, as the scar remaining is soft, white, and healthy-looking.

The toxine treatment of disease has also aided us in surgery. What a difference there is to-day in the results from tracheo-