

A bichloride of mercury dressing should never be applied on an area of skin on which tincture of iodine has been recently painted. An iodide of mercury is formed, which is highly irritating.

Ichthyol, if used in ointment sufficiently strong (25 to 50 per cent.), is perhaps the most useful single medicament in aborting early superficial infections.

Subiodide of bismuth dusted on an oozing granulating wound promptly stops the bleeding. It is also an excellent stimulant to the growth of epithelium.

Collodion, commonly used to seal a puncture wound, as after aspiration, will not adhere if the spot is wet or bleeding. To obviate this, pinch up the skin, wipe it dry, apply the collodion and continue the compression a minute or so until the collodion has begun to contract.—From *Surgical Suggestions*.

The Diagnosis of Anemia.

R. C. Cabot, Boston (*Journal A. M. A.*, August 24), summarizes the conclusions of his paper on the diagnosis of anemia substantially as follows: 1. In the diagnosis of anemia all facts must be considered. The etiologic factors and the general physical diagnostic data are as important as the hematologic findings. This is particularly true of the secondary anemias. 2. There are but two important types of anemia if we are to judge by the blood examination alone. To the first type belong the anemias due to hemorrhage, malaria, nephritis, and other diseases leading to increased destruction of red blood corpuscles. He also includes chlorosis in this class, so far as the blood picture is concerned, though elsewhere than in his conclusions he mentions the characteristic usual non-reduction of red corpuscles and low color index. Here he says it is distinguished wholly by the absence of etiologic factors and the age and sex of the patient. 3. Pernicious anemia can usually, but not always, be distinguished by the blood picture alone. If this is supported by the history and physical examination the diagnosis is one of the clearest and surest in medicine. The most important single fact is the low red cell count with relative increase in hemoglobin. 4. The parasitic anemias are not always recognizable by the blood examination, but offer no difficulties in diagnosis if the eggs of the parasite are sought. Myelophthisic anemia is easily recognized by the evidences of its cause. The rare aplastic anemia has usually been observed in young girls and associated with severe purpura. The blood is like that in pernicious anemia, except that the erythrocytes are smaller and rarely contain nuclei.