

who says:—"On reading Mr. Thomas's note on a reliable Washing Tap for Operation Rooms, in the *British Medical Journal*, I was struck by the view expressed in the sentence: "The most popular practice of washing hands is that of doing so in hand basins . . . it is not in accordance with the elementary principles of removing surgical dirt . . . because, after the first swill of the hands in the water, the remainder of the hand washing is done in septic or dirty water, until the basin is sterilized and refilled with clean water."

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WE can easily sterilize and refill the basin by having three basins, and passing from one to the other; and here it is not the water and basins, but the soap and brushes, or loofah and compresses, with which the dirt is rubbed off, which are the important factors, and must be changed at each stage. If they are not changed, washing in a sterilized Niagara will not avail.

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SURGEONS often use lysol, or other antiseptics in the earlier washings, and rinse off in pure water before beginning the operation. Supposing any dirt, with germs, to be washed or rubbed off the hands, the germs are killed by the antiseptic agent with more certainty than those remaining in the epidermis of the hands are killed by any known process.

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PROFESSOR MIKULIEZ, of Breslau, the pioneer of veils, and gloves, and gauze drainage, has just published his method of disinfection of the hands and skin, and water has no part in it at all. He uses a solution of soap in spirit. A towel or piece of lint is dipped in the solution, and used to rub off all visible (gross) dirt, the nails are cleaned, then the hands or skin are brushed with sterilized brushes in the soap spirit solution for five minutes.

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DR. KELLY, of Baltimore, has his basins on pivots for the purpose of being able to remove and sterilize them; we have ordinary hand basins on wooden tables, and, in addition to sterilizing them, we have the practical rule that whenever a hand basin is broken in the hospital, the new one goes into the single wards, and the broken one is replaced from the single ward.

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I MUST uphold the claims of the ordinary entire washing basins for washing the hands before surgical operation, and object to washing it in a running stream of water as imperfect, because the continuous soaking and softening of the hands is wanting, and, consequently, less epidermis is scrubbed away."

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Queen has contributed £1,000 and the Prince of Wales £262 10s. for the Transvaal War Fund at the Mansion House. The Mansion House Fund now amounts to over £156,000.

Miss Edith F. Inderwick, of Winchelsea, has been nominated by the Local Government Board a member of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Good!

The good work done by women on Boards of Guardians is exemplified by the action of Miss Baker, one of the Holborn Guardians, who moved at a recent meeting that the boys at Mitcham should be allowed to join the Football League, formed amongst the metropolitan separate schools. Miss Baker said she had been so impressed by the good which resulted from workhouse children being permitted to mix with others that she had collected the £5 requisite as entrance fee. The motion was unanimously adopted.

At the annual meeting of the Aerated Bread Company a dividend of 60 per cent. was declared. As usual there was a very feeble effort made to obtain better wages for the employees—who are scandalously underpaid—a mere pocket money wage. Hundreds of clergymen are shareholders in this commercial juggernaut. Surely this is a glaring case of sweating which the Women's Industrial Council might tackle!

We fear that the splendid generosity of the public to the war funds may cause a falling-off in the hospital incomes, and we regret to learn that the collections made last Sunday in the Birmingham churches on behalf of the Queen's Hospital show a decreased subscription.

Dr. John Harley gave some remarkable evidence at a recent inquest, held at Mile End, before the deputy coroner for East London. Dr. Harley recorded that he found on examination the whole of the organs of the man's body transposed, the right lung being where the left ought to be, and the heart, instead of being on the left, inclined greatly to the right of the body; the spleen was misplaced, and the bowels and stomach completely transposed. The coroner considered this a remarkable story, with which Dr. Harley agreed, stating that it was a record case and one of the greatest interest in surgery. Dr. Harley did not consider that this curious malformation affected the man's death in any way.

Professor W. H. Corfield, who already holds a number of appointments, has been chosen by the Government to act as Consulting Sanitary Adviser of the Office of Works. This is a new position. It is evidently intended to consult Dr. Corfield with reference to the sanitary condition of the Royal Palaces and public buildings under the charge of the Office of Works.

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