

sphere cannot be entirely ignored. Many of the experiments given in this report were done at the new Great Northern Hospital, where all the surroundings are very favourable. Dr. Black Jones exposed six gelatine plate cultures in the operation theatre of that Hospital for five minutes. Four plates were put upon the operation table, and two upon that used for instruments. The exposure was made half an hour before the operations were begun, and when the theatre was quiet. Six days afterwards one plate had grown 10 colonies, one 11, three 15, and one 21. Many of the colonies were black or white moulds, but various cocci and bacilli also grew; and some of them liquefied gelatine.

This sterile silk behaves well when buried in wounds, even in considerable quantity, as for the radical cure of hernia, or for the closure of wounds in the abdominal wall. Out of forty-five operations for the cure of inguinal, femoral, or umbilical hernia done since January, 1895, one case parted with one suture, and one parted with several; the rest healed by first intention.

Silkworm gut, or fishing gut, as it is often called, is excellent material for closing skin wounds, and, I might add, those in mucous membranes. I have tested silkworm gut six times. On each occasion the broth remained clear. This gut had been boiled for twenty minutes, and then put into 1 in 40 carbolic lotion, the same as the silk. I cannot recall a case of stitch-hole suppuration after the use of this disinfected gut, the skin having also been disinfected as described below.

THE DISINFECTION OF TOWELS.

After the experiments given in the last reports, the towels which are used to surround the field of operation were boiled or steamed for thirty minutes, and then put into some carbolic acid lotion (1 in 40). The surgeon, or his assistant, after having sterilised the hands, picks these towels out of the lotion, squeezes them as dry as possible, and then distributes them around the field of operation.

Nineteen towels were tested at the beginning of the operation, and of these seventeen were aseptic, and two were septic. One of these infected the broth with bacillus subtilis, which is very hard to kill, even with boiling water. Another towel was also septic, but we found out that it had only been boiled for a few minutes. Two of the towels around the field of operation were tested at the end of the operation, and both were septic. They had been exposed to the atmosphere for from half to three-quarters of an hour. This result is not to be wondered at, after what happened when gelatine plate cultures were exposed. Clearly it is better not to place instruments on the towels, and also not to drag silk across them.

Mr. Lockwood goes on to give the result of the Disinfection of Sponges — Water and Solutions—the Disinfection of the Skin of the Hands—the Disinfection of the Skin of the Patient—and the Final Results as shown by Testing the Wounds.

Mrs. C. B. McLAREN, in opening a new Cottage Hospital at Blackley, said: "They were all familiar with the old parable of the Good Samaritan, and she was sure they had all been sorry that when the Good Samaritan had done all he could for his patient he could not leave him in the charge of a nice Nurse with a white cap and apron, instead of being obliged to leave him with an Oriental innkeeper, who had no real knowledge of the wants of such an invalid."

SISTER "Alice" writes, "With reference to a suggestion made by one of your correspondents about the beauty and usefulness of the dried maiden-hair fern which is being sold somewhat extensively in the shops just now, I notice she says: "What a boon these will be at Christmas and Easter, &c., when flowers are so dear." I thought she and others might be interested in a few little wrinkles of my own whereby I am enabled to make my ward beautiful at a time when to buy flowers is to reduce oneself to bankruptcy. When I am on my holiday it is a great pleasure to me to make collections of "grasses" of different kinds. These I dry and select, and pack carefully away, bringing them out by degrees as they are needed. I always make a large collection of the brilliant-colored sumach foliage which, when pressed and dried, makes my tables gorgeous, artistic, and beautiful throughout the winter and right up to March, when we can count again on getting some fresh blossoms. Bunches of dried heather tied up with mauve or purple ribbon last clean and fresh for quite a month after being brought out, and thus the charm of novelty is added to the charm of beauty with economy. There are many similar ways in which we can attain to decoration without a large outlay either of time, trouble, or money. And time and money are generally scarce commodities with the Hospital worker."

The newspaper "dead season" has set in. It is shown in several ways. The *Globe* deserts the big gooseberry and the sea-serpent. It comes out with a "skit" on the "new Nurse." We feel sure that the skit will be dealt with fully in the medical Press, so we forbear comment.

At a recent discussion among dentists on "Is Dentistry fitted for Women?" several arguments were brought forward on both sides. One speaker said: "Women were more sympathetic—but only so to men. To their own sex they showed small pity or sympathy." Others were of opinion that "the long hours of standing would make dentistry impossible as a profession."

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