

But we have now got beyond antiseptics, and aim at asepsis. Of this Mr. Poland says: "When an aseptic condition has been brought about, the further application of antiseptics is useless, and may often be harmful. An operation wound, clean and non-infected, will heal best when washed over with water sterilized by boiling. The modern surgeon, therefore, endeavours to make and treat wounds aseptically, which means using the various methods of sterilization to render all apparatus, instruments, etc., free from bacteria. In practice it is assumed that all things are infected until they are known to be sterile—a golden rule, the strict observance of which would eliminate danger from instruments, ligatures, and other appliances. Whether complete ideal asepsis will ever be realized is a question to be determined in the future. The most perfect wounds even now contain bacteria, often, however, of a harmless and non-poisonous character, and so few in number as to give rise to no trouble."

Mr. Poland then refers to the famous discovery by Professor Röntgen of the rays known as the X-rays. The use of the X-rays is still in its infancy, but skiagraphy will, he believes, develop into a science worthy of surgery, provided its study be prosecuted by medical men or by men having a thorough anatomical training, who would study it in a scientific spirit, with time and opportunity to make it a speciality.

An agent mentioned as an auxiliary to the art and science of surgery, which will in all probability in the near future take a very conspicuous place in the treatment of surgical affections, is electricity.

Lastly, we are glad to note that Mr. Poland has a word to say as to the help afforded to medicine by nursing in these latter days. He writes as follows:—"I think it only right to mention in this connection the valuable help the Nineteenth Century has afforded to the surgeon in the introduction of the trained nurse, who was unknown at the commencement of this period, and who may truly be described as his hand-maiden. Her work is a most important factor in the efficiency and equipment of the surgical wards in our hospitals, and I have no doubt that she will achieve much in the triumphs of the Twentieth Century."

Marriage Bells.

An interesting marriage will shortly take place between Mr. Robert Fox-Symons and Miss M. Calverley, Sister of Rahere Ward, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Mr. Fox-Symons was attached to the National Fund for the Greek wounded, and worked at the English Hospital at Chalcis during the Græco-Turkish war, where he won great popularity by his kindness and charm of manner, he is Chevalier de l'Ordre Royal du Sauveur, a distinction bestowed upon him by the King of the Hellenes at the termination of his services in Greece. Mr. Fox-Symons has been on active service in South Africa, where he met Miss Calverley, who has also done very good work during the war as a member of the Army Nursing Reserve. Miss Calverley, who is a great favourite with her colleagues, will be much missed at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

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The excellence of the preparations of Messrs. Fairchild Bros. and Foster, New York, is well known and recognised in the medical and nursing worlds, and we have much pleasure in drawing attention to their Peptogenic Milk Powder, which in both physiological and chemical properties is almost identical with human milk, for which it is, therefore, a complete and reliable substitute.

The chief difference between cow's milk and human milk, so far as infants are concerned, lies in the fact that cow's milk contains twice as much albuminoids caseine, etc., as the human variety, and that these being largely coagulable form firm masses of curd in the stomach. On the other hand the albuminoids of human milk are mostly soluble, and those which are coagulable form soft flocculent particles. The relative proportion of the two milks, and of the total amount of their nutritive substances, also differ. Clearly, therefore, unmodified cow's milk is unsuitable food for an infant. This difficulty may, however, be overcome by the use of Peptogenic Milk Powder, by means of which cow's milk may be made conformable to human milk, thus forming a valuable food for infants, whose natural food is unavailable. There are as many individualities of stomachs as there are of faces, therefore it is important to ascertain exactly what proportion suits each particular child, but we have every confidence in commending the Peptogenic Milk Powder to the attention of our readers. The sole agents for Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australasia, are Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

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