

excellent business results to require any outside assistance or advice.

Passing from financial matters we find much in the text of the Annual Report which deserves comment and elicits admiration, and we shall recur to it as soon as other matters demanding our consideration permit us to do so. Meanwhile we may characterise the document as the product of great success modestly announced, and a steadfast determination to obtain still greater results quietly but firmly declared.

### LECTURES TO NURSES ON ANTISEPTICS IN SURGERY.\*

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#### LECTURE III. (CONTINUED).

THE wounded limb being cleansed, rendered antiseptic, and covered by aseptic lint, is then best loosely fixed upon a broad flat splint, covered by oiled silk or gutta percha tissue, which has been well washed and soaked in carbolic solution 1-20, and then the patient can be handed over to the Doctor with perfect security. If then he is not careful to maintain its asepticity, that is not your fault.

But the patient is a lady with a lovely transparent skin, and this is at present perfectly whole; there is no crushing, no grime; apparently everything is as clean as a constant habit of bathing can make it. She has to have some growth removed. Are you safe in trusting to her declaration that there is no need for any further cleansing? No, certainly not. Remember the description of the skin I have given you. Remember that bacteria are microscopic. Remember that they live and flourish in unboiled, unfiltered water; and make that skin aseptic.

This time it will not be necessary to use liquor potassæ, but it is advisable to rub the skin for a minute or two with turpentine, especially in such parts as are covered with hair, as the arm-pits, &c. Then, with a small nail-brush and plenty of carbolic soap, and using 1-20 carbolic lotion for the water, go over the whole surface carefully—by all means asepticize a larger surface than is necessary, rather than too little. When done, cover the surface with a wet guard, wrung out of carbolic solution 1-40, which you must keep wet until the Surgeon is ready.

Between these two extremes you will find cases of all sorts, some approximating more closely the

first, some the second. You will have, to a certain extent, to use your judgment as to how much each case requires, but always do too much rather than too little. Whenever there is oil or grease, use the alkaline wash first. When there is none, this may be omitted.

And now as to your duties during operations. It is better, I think, to take a concrete example, because you can follow each step and see for yourselves what it requires. I want you to feel certain as to the reasons for your conduct, because then your own common sense will show you, whilst following most conscientiously the main idea, how occasionally the details may be varied.

Here is a case of ovarian tumor. This necessitates the opening of the abdomen, the removal of the tumor, possibly the washing or sponging out of the abdominal cavity, the checking of hæmorrhage, the stitching up of the wound, and lastly the proper covering by dressings of the whole abdomen.

You will have to prepare the room in which the operation is to be performed. The room, at present, is cold, has a certain amount of septic dust clinging to the walls, floors, bed and bedding, operating table, and floating about in the atmosphere.

You will open all windows and doors, and allow perfectly fresh air to enter, and leave it so for a couple of hours. Remove all carpets, rugs, toilet covers, bed hangings, anything which can harbour dust or dirt. Then shut the windows and door and light the fire. If in Hospital, where the walls are covered by plaster or tiles, these will be well washed down with carbolic soap and water, the walls first, then the floor, and you will see especially that no accumulations of dust are left in any of the corners. If in a private house, of course you cannot wash the wall-paper, unless the paper is of the kind known as washable, but you can, and should, wash all woodwork and dust the walls, whilst the window is open, so that the wind may carry away all that is possible. Last, wash the floor thoroughly, scrubbing it with carbolic soap and water. Then allow the whole to dry, with a good fire. The bed, which should be made of freshly-washed and well-aired blankets and linen on a firm hair mattress—or better than all, a metal spring mattress—should be brought in when all is dry. On the morning of the operation, you have to carbolise the room. This is done in one of two ways. First, by starting the steam spray in the room, and keeping it at work for a couple of hours, directing the spray upwards so that the dust in the upper parts of the room may be wetted, and so made heavy, and thus to fall to the ground, whilst at the same time it is carbolised; the solution used is the stronger, or one to twenty.

\*As these Lectures will in all probability be reprinted in book form, revised by the author, the diagrams, being printed in colours, are omitted.

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