

## Professional Review.

### A MANUAL FOR MINOR SURGERY AND BANDAGING.

We have much pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to the fourteenth edition of this valuable manual, which, formerly known as "Heath's," is now revised and in part re-written

by Mr. Bilton Pollard, F.R.C.S. The picture of a surgeon's aseptic operating costume which we print on this page, by the kind permission of the publishers, Messrs. J. and A. Churchill, 7, Great Marlborough Street, W., shows the great advance in surgery since the first edition of the book was published in 1861. In connection with this illustration the author writes: "The aseptic costume of a surgeon is shown in the frontispiece, where, however, the surgeon's hand appears to be touching the margin of the bowl, on its way to pick up a piece of gauze. No surgeon properly trained in asepsis would do that."

The book is primarily intended for house surgeons and dressers, but it is a classic with a usefulness which extends far beyond the class for whom it was originally written. Nurses can gain much from its pages, while the clear and explicit instructions given as to the methods of applying bandages, and compressing arteries would be most useful to those who are studying these subjects in connection with Red Cross work.

One point we notice referred to in the Introduction is "the prevailing custom of constantly scrub-

bing the floors of wards with soap and water," but we do not think that at the present day many hospital wards have "scrubbed boards." The author says also that "the practice of polishing and dry-rubbing the floor, especially if made of teak, or some hard wood, is a great improvement, and is found to have a direct tendency to reduce the occurrence of wound infection."



A Surgeon's Aseptic Operating Costume.

We are glad to note that the author emphasises the importance not only of scrubbing the hands which come in contact with a wound, but of keeping them clean. He writes: "Everyone whose hands come into contact with a wound, or with the instruments, ligatures, sutures, etc., must exercise constant watchfulness over his hands. He must be careful to avoid contamination as much as possible, and should protect his hands with gloves when touching dirty things." The method of cleansing the hands is then described in detail. Rubber gloves, the author holds, should be used much more frequently than they are as a means of protecting the hands from infection, and "the house-surgeon or dresser who is going to help at an aseptic operation in the afternoon should certainly use gloves for dressing septic cases in the morning."

The author describes in detail the various methods employed to sterilise catgut, but concludes: "Many surgeons, including the author, are sceptical as to the efficiency of all those methods of sterilisation, and are so impressed by the occasional occurrence of tetanus after its use that they are unwilling to use it under any circumstances."

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