

cut from gloves too badly injured for further use. Satisfactory results are gained by mending gloves of one quality with patches taken from a similar one—thus, a "light" glove should be patched from another "light," and a "medium" from a "medium." Cut the patches various sizes and either round or oval: a patch which has been carefully rounded will hold much better than one with its corners left on. See that each glove is thoroughly dry, and begin by locating your puncture. This is not an easy task if it is a very tiny one. Inflate the glove with air and squeeze each part well in turn, holding it near your face, so that air escaping through the hole can be felt. If this method fails to discover the hole, put the inflated glove into a bowl of water and watch for a stream of bubbles. This, however, is rather a slow way, as it entails another drying of the glove before a patch can be applied: with a little patience and practice one can soon become expert at finding holes by the first method. Having found the puncture, smear the patch to be applied thinly and evenly with rubber solution, using either a glass rod or the tip of a finger, and apply it, keeping firm pressure for a few seconds. Always use as small a patch as possible for neatness and comfort's sake. See that your patch lies evenly, not curling up round the edge, or pulling the glove out of shape; patches applied to finger tips often require a good deal of coaxing before they will stay in good position. For economy, try as far as you can to make into pairs whilst mending. Powder lightly, turn and powder again—making quite certain all patches are now on the inside of the glove, for if on the outside, even the firmest of patches might rub off, and besides exposing the original puncture, be left behind in a wound, with serious results. Before putting away your rubber solution, add a few drops of benzine, fasten the lid tightly, and put away in a cool place; treated in this way, a tin of solution will last for months. Gloves which can no longer be worn at operations may be extensively patched and used for dressings, examinations, and plasters. Those beyond hope of repair may have the fingers taken off for stalls, and pieces cut from the hand and wrist will be found very useful for mending gas and ether bags, whilst strips from  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. to 3 in. wide are sometimes used instead of a gauze wick or a drainage tube.

Some surgeons always have their gloves boiled. Examine carefully, making sure there are no holes, and that all patches are inside; roll each pair lightly and tie in a small bag, boil for fifteen minutes, take out with sterile forceps, putting each bag into a sterile bowl

containing sterile water. For convenience sake, each bag is marked with name or size. These are quite easily put on, using the bag as a shield to protect the outside of the glove from coming into contact with your bare hand. Some people dip their fingers into sterile glycerine or etheralized soap solution, and others half fill the glove with water before inserting their hand. To take off dip your gloves in water, and they will "peel" off quite easily.

Others prefer "dry sterilization," and this is a more elaborate method of preparation. Each pair of gloves is well powdered inside and out, and placed with a pair of sleeves in a thin wrapper, a folded piece of gauze placed inside, and also between each glove, and on the top a powder swab (a little powder tied up in three thicknesses of gauze), the wrappers are placed in a tin or drum holding from twenty to thirty, and sterilized from fifteen to twenty minutes by steam at a 10 lb. pressure. The wrappers are easily cut out of "splint" linen or other cheap thin material, about the size of an ordinary handkerchief, and fastened either with pins or two tapes sewn to opposite corners, so that they are folded and tied like a handkerchief sachet, and are marked with name or size. When making up these wrappers, place the contents in such order that the right-hand glove lies on the top under the powder swab; to put them on, after thoroughly scrubbing and preparing the hands in the usual manner, remove any moisture with sterile swabs, open the wrapper, powder the hands well, and holding the right glove in the left hand by its two pieces of gauze, insert the hand, carefully turning back about 2 in. of the wrist so as to form a cuff; take the left glove in the right hand, and put it on in a similar way, stroke the fingers into a comfortable position, put on the sleeves and turn down the "cuffs" to hold the wrists in position.

Talcum powder, either with or without starch powder added, does excellently for gloves and swabs.

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### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

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We regret to say that none of the papers sent in for the prize competition this week are of sufficient merit to justify the award of a prize. Either they are too superficial, or they do not deal with the question of the protection of contacts. The papers appear to indicate the need for more thorough teaching and study of the subject.

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