

MOTOR-DRIVEN PLASTER-OF-PARIS SAW.

The removal of plaster-of-paris casts has always been one of the operations which the chief gladly turned over to be performed by his assistant; we therefore believe, says *The Modern Hospital*, that the chief, the assistant, and even the hospital orderly will hail with delight the advent of the electrically driven plaster-of-paris cutter. Such an apparatus is now offered to the surgical profession under the name of the electro-surgical cutter. The apparatus consists of an electric motor, the shaft of which extends at one end and has coupled to it a stem, to which a rotary cutting knife is attached. The knife has concave cutting edges, so arranged that it will cut clear, thus automatically making clogging or stopping of the motor impossible. A guard over the knife protects the operator from injury as well as dust and flying particles while the apparatus is in operation. A handle extending at right angle from the motor permits of a firm grasp, carrying near one end a push-button, by which the motor may be started and stopped.

The motor-driven apparatus eliminates irregular jerks of movement, and the toughest plaster-of-paris dressing can be removed with surprising rapidity.

A NOTE ON THE CARREL-DAKIN-DAUFRESNE TREATMENT.

Captain R. M. Rowe, M.D., F.R.C.S. Eng., R.A.M.C., British Expeditionary Force, writes in the *British Medical Journal*:—

The results of six months' experience of the Carrel-Dakin-Daufresne treatment in infected wounds in a general hospital, British Expeditionary Force, may be of interest. It was carried out strictly in accordance with the system employed by Carrel at his hospital. The solution, the operative technique, the appropriate number, calibre, and position in the wound of the tubes are of prime importance; indeed, the number of perforations and their size are not negligible.

The Solution.

The Dakin-Daufresne solution is rich in hypochlorite of soda, but must be neutral or alkaline. It must be tested at least every two days for free hypochlorous acid, and the sample rejected if

any acid be present. The solution is prepared so readily from abundant and cheap chemicals that free use or rejection is of no importance, and the use or rejection is of no importance, and the method of preparation is rapid and free from technical difficulties.

Operative Technique.—Whenever possible, the wound should be converted into a broad-

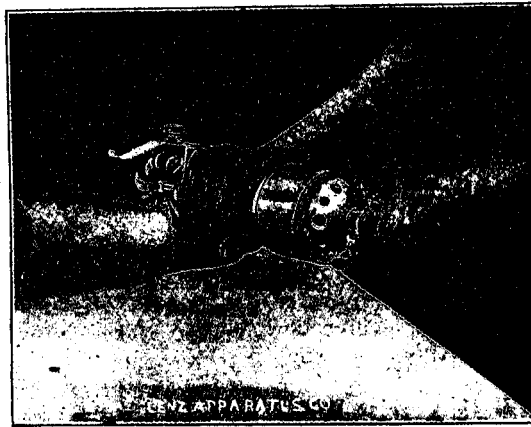


Fig. 1. Electrically driven plaster-of-paris saw in operation.



Fig. 2. Showing plaster-of-paris cast cut by means of electrically driven apparatus.

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