

**LECTURES ON
APPENDICITIS AND NOTES
ON OTHER SUBJECTS**

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Lectures on Appendicitis and Notes on Other Subjects by Robert T. Morris & Henry Macdonald

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ROBERT T. MORRIS & HENRY MACDONALD

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CHAPTER I.

PREPARATION FOR OPERATION. MATERIALS.

General Cleanliness is obtained by washing our hands, and the skin of the patient, at the proposed field of operation, with ordinary soap and water, aided by a nail-brush.

Special cleanliness for the surgeon and assistants is gained by Weir's nascent chlorine method of skin sterilization. A spoonful of commercial chloride of lime is taken in the palm of the hand, and to this is added a spoonful of carbonate of sodium. A little water added to the mixture at once causes a reaction, which sets chlorine gas free. The hands of the surgeon, or the skin of the patient at the site of operation, are scrubbed with the bubbling chlorine mixture for two minutes, and are then washed in boiled water. This gives a degree of sterilization which is not attained by any other method with which I am familiar, and the skin of the surgeon's hands does not suffer severely by this method of sterilization when he is obliged to do a number of consecutive operations in one day.

Special cleanliness for the skin of the patient is obtained by methods employed for cleansing the hands, but, in addition, the skin is always shaved first, and, if possible, a pad of moist bichloride gauze is kept in contact with the skin at the proposed field of operation for ten hours.

Special cleanliness of the alimentary canal of the patient is aimed at by emptying the bowels, and then giving ten grains of salol for a first dose, to be repeated later when advisable. This is an important measure in abdominal work, because the process of digestion stops when the abdominal sympathetic nerves are shocked, and fermentation ensues, poisoning the patient with saprophytic products. Salol lessens fermentation.