HOW WE TREAT WOUNDS TO-DAY, PP. 1-163

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How We Treat Wounds To-Day, pp. 1-163 by Robert T. Morris

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ROBERT T. MORRIS

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HOW WE TREAT WOUNDS TO-DAY

A TREATISE ON THE SUBJECT OF ANTISEPTIC SURGERY WHICH CAN BE UNDERSTOOD BY BEGINNERS

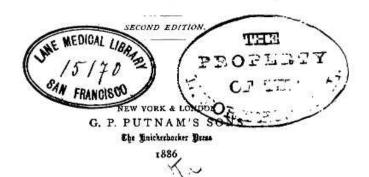


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CONTENTS.

									PAGE
GENERAL R	EMARE	CS	8	14	20	· 100	11.		1-28
IRRIGATOR (PERM.	ANEN	IT IR	RIGA	TOR,	p. 83)		4	29
RUBBER SHE	ET	22 ³³	58	180	70	on one	10	1	30
RUBBER APP	ON	26	25	12	(2)	38	111	8	31
OPERATING	TABLE	58	114	8	40	-		0	31
INSTRUMENT	RECE	EPTA	CLES			\$ ()	33	42	32
RAZOR AND	BRUSE	£	ij.,			20	3%	12	33
BICHLORIDE-	or-M	ERCU	RY S	oru.	TION	2	1	1	34
CARBOLIC A	CID	27		527	23	10	1		37
IODOFORM	20 3	•	X	И					38
LISTER'S PRO	OTECT	IVE (DILED	SIL	K	18	1/4		39
GUTTA-PER	сна Т	ISSU	2		22	18	8		40
DRAINS	2					8	8		43
SILK .	-	1	10		8				46
CATGUT		8	6						47
SILK-WORM-	GUT			4					49
LEAD STRIP	SANI	SH	OT			*0	17		54
SPONGES	*:	10 mm	50 5 7 E		- CO.				54
BICHLORIDE	GAUZ	E	104	et:	123	10	20 12		56
BICHLORIDE	Сотт	ON	334	2.0		•			57
RANDACES									e 8

							PAGE
Towers				10	8	27	. 58
WHERE MATERIALS C	AN B	E Bot	JGHT	, PRI	CE, E	TC.	59
GENERAL DIRECTIONS	AND	EXP	LANA	TION	s.	6:	2-7 I
RECENT INCISED WOU	ND	93	-	194			71
INFLAMED INCISED WO	OUNI	, (-	831	24	43	79
Wounds in Ovarioto	*	20		100	*	86	
WOUND REMAINING E	XPOS	SED	7.5	(5)	33	4	97
WOUND REQUIRING	FR	EQUE	NT	CHAN	GE	OF	55.00
Dressing .					712	(2)	102
LACERATED AND CON	TUSE	n Wo	UND	99	.02	12	107
INFLAMED, LACERATE	D, AI	ND Co	NTUS	SED W	Tour	D.	113
CONTUSED WOUND							115
GUNSHOT WOUND .	8	ij.	- 53			-	126
PUNCTURED WOUND	F K	NEE					130
PUNCTURED WOUND O	F PA	LM	569		8	- 8	134
INFLAMED PUNCTURE			88	50000	23		137
Poisoned Wound .				00500	312	138,	141
BURNED WOUND OF S			GREE	: Lis	AITE		144
EXTENSIVE BURN OF S					75, U.S.	W (2)	148
BURN OF THIRD OR FO					MITE	D.	154
EXTENSIVE BURN OF							159
LAST WORD							165

HOW WE TREAT WOUNDS TO-DAY.

CHAPTER I.

LET us build upon the following syllogism which is not of sand.

All surgeons who understand antiseptic wound treatment work antiseptically.

Not all surgeons work antiseptically.

Therefore, not all surgeons understand antiseptic wound treatment.

The premises may be challenged by men who do not work antiseptically, but at the bottom of the trouble is rather the method of the individual than any fault in the antiseptic method.

Some men who stand high in the profession have expressed themselves as opposed to the new and scientific way of treating wounds, but this is in fact because they have not had experience with clinical demonstrations of genuine antisepsis and its results.

Students sometimes excuse themselves from an acquaintance with modern methods because a certain professor in surgery, for whom they have great respect, has not made himself, familiar with the subject.

Because Cato learned Greek at the age of eighty years very few of us are inclined to think that the Greek language was previously unknown; and the professor and his students will find that time will break down their opposition, or, in other words, will supply their lack of information.

Lack of information in this connection means that opportunity for learning has not been given; and this opportunity has not been widely given in America, because teachers have been too few, and because the text-books on the subject of antiseptic surgery have been too elaborate for beginners.

In a few years this country will do as good or better surgical work than Germany is now doing, but in the meantime patients and physicians will experience much suffering and disappointment where comfort and satisfaction might be had.

The history of antiseptic surgery is not different from the history of previous radical advances in civilization.

At present the brightest lights in the profession form the head of the comet, while stringing out into the tail are multitudes who can never change their positions.

In order to fully comprehend our modern wound treatment, one must have a knowledge of the life-histories of micro-organisms; although a simple appreciation of the fact that microbes are continually on the alert for free board and lodging would be sufficient to put most men on guard against them.

If you shake a puff-ball the air in the vicinity is filled with spores, which become new puffballs so soon as circumstances favor.

If a septicæmia patient should be shaken, the air would in the same way be filled with spores, which would proceed to make new septicæmia microbes at the very first opportunity.

The micro-organisms, in different stages of