

FIRST AID TO THE WOUNDED.

Sir, I would very much like to get a detailed account of the instruction given to the "police," which enables them to give "first aid" in case of accidents.—I am, etc., CANADIAN.

* As this question is constantly being asked by members, it may be advisable to give some details. The instruction given to the police generally consists in five or six simple lectures, with practical demonstrations following them. The first lecture is a general description of the body, quite elementary in character, and the demonstration is in the use of Esmarch's triangular bandage. The second lecture is descriptive of the circulation of the blood, and the demonstration following is on the use of improvised tourniquets. The third lecture is on fractures, and the demonstration is on improvised splints. The fourth lecture is on the treatment of drowning, fainting, epileptic or drunken men, poisoning, burns and scalds. The fifth lecture is on carrying and lifting wounded people.

All these lectures are given by medical men; and it is astonishing how well they do it. In most cases, they succeed admirably and waken up much interest in medical work. Various handbooks are used, such as the *St. John's Handbook*, by Dr. Shepherd; Esmarch's *Treatment of Accidents*, by Princess Helena; and there are other books also. At the end of the course, a certificate is given on passing an examination. These classes do much to extinguish quackery, bone-setting, and the like; as it is amongst the completely ignorant that these evils spread.

ANONYMOUS MALICE.

We have received with great regret a printed paper which is being circulated in Guernsey, purporting to consist of extracts from the JOURNAL of 1871 concerning the Hampstead Small-pox Hospital inquiry of that date. In the course of those articles, we expressed opinions adverse to the discretion of the house surgeons in reference to some of the matters investigated. Those gentlemen were, however, undoubtedly actuated by the best motives, and all their acts were dictated by a humane zeal for the sick poor entrusted to their charge. The extracts are garbled, and give a very unfair view of the opinions which we then expressed and of the circumstances to which they related. We feel the deepest indignation at finding that, after the end of thirteen years, and for reasons of personal malice, these garbled extracts have been dug up, and are being anonymously circulated in a form evidently intended personally to injure one of the most eminent and respected practitioners of Guernsey, who was at that time connected with the hospital. The document is unfair and misleading, and it cannot be too strongly condemned. We take this opportunity of expressing our entire confidence in the gentleman who is the object of the present attack; and we feel assured that it will not only entirely fail in its obviously mischievous intention, but that the natural repulsion with which such malice must be met by right-minded persons will lead to an extension of the feeling of friendship and respect with which the gentleman aimed at is, we have reason to know, regarded, not only in Guernsey, but by many of the most eminent medical and surgical heads of the profession in England and Scotland.

WOOD-WOOL AS AN ANTISEPTIC.

Sir, In January last I received a sample of wood-wool, as manufactured by Messrs. Essenger and Neuberger, accompanied by a printed circular, giving its chemical composition, and its combination with resinous matter, and etheric oil, imparting to it powerful antiseptic properties. After carefully reading it over, I determined to try its effects on one or two long-standing cases, which, to say the least, were both troublesome and unpleasant.

My first case was that of J. W., aged 23 years, who was confined to her bed for the past four years, suffering from scrofula of the osseous system. There were numerous profuse discharging sores, scattered all over the body, chiefly around the right elbow and hip-joints. On January 15th I applied wood-wool in its loose state, without gauze, or any other substance, to prevent its coming in direct contact with the raw surface. Its absorbent and antiseptic properties were decidedly better than anything I had used. In ten days the discharges were comparatively little, the wounds assuming a healthy granular appearance, a new and healthy circulation seemed to establish itself, and after several pieces of bone came away from those places to which it had been applied, a rapidly healing process took place, and in seven weeks nothing was to be seen but the cicatrices.

My second case was that of J. G., labourer, aged 42 years, suffering from varicose ulceration of the left leg, occupying the middle two-thirds. A great many remedies, including strapping, bandaging, rest, etc., had been used, both at home and in hospital, but without producing any permanent benefit. On February 4th I applied wood-wool as described. In twenty-three days from that date the leg was quite sound, and my patient expressed himself as feeling better than he had for years. I have applied wood-wool to wounds both incised and lacerated, and find that their tendency to heal by the first intention is greater than under any other antiseptic treatment.

I believe that its use will become general, both in hospital and private practice, for two reasons. First, it is cheap; second, it is clean, and easily applied. In colliery and machinery wounds, where there is generally a great deal of suppuration, and foul discharges in the process of healing, from the great difficulty in cleansing the parts, I should say it is the material which will give most satisfaction.

T. A. MITCHELL, L.R.C.S.I.

Catford, S.E.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Morality. By M. C. Hime. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1884.

Manual of Chemistry. By R. A. Wittingham, A.M., M.D. London: Sampson Low and Co. 1884.

The Diseases of the Rectum and Anus. By C. B. Kelsey, M.D. London: Sampson Low and Co. 1884.

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