

was well furnished, and, on a table in its center, lay a large number of copies of medical magazines, American and foreign. The doctor explained that the hospital regularly receives all the leading medical periodicals, the contents of which are scanned by members of the hospital staff, who meet regularly every two weeks, to discuss the same, and especially anything new described therein.

The doctor led the way from room to room and from story to story, until the building had been thoroughly inspected. There were a large number of private rooms, some of them occupied, and others tenantless. There were three male wards, each containing about twenty cots, and three female wards, similarly furnished. These apartments are all pleasant, airy, bright and commodious. One of the male wards, a large apartment, extending clear across the east end of the third story, is peculiarly beautiful in situation and appearance. Its large windows are ornamented with flowers, and, partially concealing the center east window, is a magnificent growth of some climbing plant, artistically trained. The air of cheer which these flowers impart is delightful.

The rooms, designed for patients who desire a privacy not obtainable in one of the wards, are models of neatness and comfort, and every one which the writer looked into is nicely furnished.

In the rear of the large hospital building, and in the center of the block, stands a commodious frame building, which is used as a hospital for contagious diseases, such as diphtheria, scarlet fever, etc. It is well fitted up, is within convenient access by the hospital staff, and yet is so situated and conducted as to guard against infection.

The most striking feature, perhaps, of the entire establishment, is the rigid, scrupulous cleanliness that is everywhere enforced. The term cleanliness is here used not only in a surgical, but in a housekeeping sense. The floors, walls, furniture and bedding are kept as clean as they possibly can be. Sweeping, dusting and scrubbing are daily processes in all parts of the institution.

Until within a few years it has been deemed the proper thing to have carpets on the floors and paper on the walls of hospitals; but science now condemns both, and this institution, to be in the van of progress, is replacing its carpets with hardwood floors, and wall paper with an enamel finish, which can be washed clean like glass. These changes are in progress in different parts of the building, and are quite expensive. In the halls and corridors much linoleum is used. It is an excellent floor covering, from a hygienic standpoint, as it absorbs nothing and is easily cleaned.

The laundry and kitchen are departments of great importance. In the former, which is in a building outside the hospital proper, are cleansed the clothing of attaches and patients, and the bedding, etc., while in the latter is prepared the food of the attendants and employes, and of the patients. Precisely the diet required by each of the latter is prescribed by a member of the hospital staff in charge of the case, and the same is prepared in the kitchen and properly served. No hotel in the city serves better food than is furnished to the patients in this hospital.

A well appointed drug store is a valu-

able feature of the institution; and here can be obtained or put up, on the shortest notice, any article or prescription in the drug store that may be required. On the top floor is a smoking room, where male patients while away the time, smoking, playing cards, dominoes, etc.

But the highest interest attaching to any feature of the hospital, centers in the operating rooms, of which there are two, in different parts of the building. In the furnishings and appliances of these rooms is exemplified the wonderful progress modern surgery is making. Here are instruments for every conceivable operation on the human body, enclosed in glass cases, and within reach on the instant. To describe the several instruments and the uses of each, would require a volume.

One special feature of each operating room is the table on which the patient is placed. It is called Markoe's improved table, and is partly constructed of glass, the other portions being of enameled metal. Its structure is somewhat complicated, and admits of ready access with instruments to any part of the body, of quick and thorough drainage, of the application of all necessary anti-septic measures, and of the most perfect surgical cleanliness, a term that has a significance of the highest importance. The second table of this kind offered for sale, was purchased by this hospital about a year ago, which shows the alertness with which every improvement is sought after.

In connection with each operating room is an apparatus for sterilizing all fabrics used in surgery, such as bandages, towels, napkins, etc.; the instruments, the hands of the operating surgeons, and the apparel worn by them while operating.

Modern surgery proceeds upon the theory that nearly all evil effects following a surgical operation are due to microscopic germs that find their way to the blood and tissues and propagate therein, producing pus, fever, inflammation and death; and, that if a wound can be protected from germs, the chances of a successful result are enormously augmented.

Pursuant to this theory, in well conducted, modern hospitals, the most thorough and elaborate precautions are taken, in connection with surgical operations, to prevent the access of germs to the blood or tissues. The microscopic enemy may exist upon a towel, the lint, the bandage, the hands of the surgeon, or even upon the instrument. Consequently every article and every substance likely to come in contact with the wound, must be sterilized, that is, freed from microscopic life.

Sterilization is accomplished by heat. Fabrics are placed in a receptacle made for the purpose and steamed; and surgical instruments are boiled in a solution of soda before using. The operating surgeon pares his nails close, keeps them scrupulously clean, and immediately before operating, washes his hands repeatedly in hot water, with a soap made for the purpose. First he uses water heated to about 110 degrees, then some degrees hotter. Again and again is the temperature increased, until he at length gives his hands a final scrubbing in water heated to about 140 degrees, or as hot as can be borne. This sterilization and attendant precautions are signified by the term surgical cleanliness.

As subjects of newspaper articles, surgical operations and other features of hospital experiences may ordinarily be regarded as of doubtful propriety. But they are quite justifiable at times, and the writer believes that good will come of a description of a few of the cases shown at the Holy Cross hospital, because it shows that this city is well advanced in surgical science, and the most modern hospital facilities.

To show the kinds of cases that are being treated the Holy Cross hospital, a few will be described. But before doing so I will here state that in no case is the patient's name mentioned in connection with the operation he or she may have undergone. This is as it should be, for many are sensitive about their ailments, and would hesitate to take hospital treatment if it were otherwise.

A married lady in the female ward had suffered distressing symptoms, including uterine hemorrhage. The usual treatment failed, and another examination was made, resulting in the discovery of what is technically called ectopic gestation. Conception in the fallopian tube had taken place, and the fetus had begun to grow in the tube, distending it enormously. If not promptly discovered and corrected, such a condition must result in death to the patient.

The remedy lay in the removal of the tube with its unnatural growth. The excision was made through an opening in the abdomen rigid surgical cleanliness characterizing the operation throughout. The result was completely successful. There was no increase in the patient's temperature, the wound healed nicely and quickly and without a drop of pus, and in a few days she was able to leave her bed.

In the same ward was a young lady who, about ten days previous to the scribe's visit, had been operated upon for appendicitis. When the abdominal cavity was opened it was found that the appendix had burst, discharging its poisonous contents, and that the intestines were submerged in pus. The abdominal cavity and its entire contents were thoroughly flushed until absolutely clean, some ten gallons of sterilized fluid being consumed in the process. The cleansing completed, the abdominal incision was sewed up, with due regard for drainage, and the patient soon showed a possibility of recovery. Her symptoms improved until she was soon out of danger, and when the writer saw her, her condition was that of advanced convalescence. During her illness, after reaching the hospital, a careful record was kept of her temperature, symptoms, food, etc.

In the male ward lay a man, past middle age, who had been operated upon for double hernia. A long incision had been made a few inches above and parallel with each groin, and the proper handling and treatment given the intestines. The ordeal had been a severe one for the patient, but his highest temperature showed but a slight elevation, and that for a short time only. When the writer saw him, his wounds were nearly healed, and his condition was excellent.

Another patient in the male ward was a well-built, intelligent looking young man, whose home was in a remote part of the State. He had long suffered with his left thigh, and at length came to the hospital for treatment. Two long longitudinal incisions were made in the thigh,