

# CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER I.

### THE PARTICULATE THEORY OF FERMENTATION. ON THE FERMENTATION OF BOILED SUBSTANCES.

	PAGE
Definition of putrefaction and fermentation—Chemical fermentations—Living ferments—Various views on fermentation—Lavoisier—Fabroni—Thenard—Appert—Gay-Lussac's experiments and conclusions—Caignard-Latour—Schwann, heated air inert—Schulze—Ure and Heilmholtz, nascent oxygen inert—Liebig's views—Review of the subject—Schroeder and Dusch, filtered air inert—Schroeder, ozone inert—Schroeder's final views—Pasteur's researches—Lister—Roberts—Tyndall—My own results, carbolised air inert—Conclusions as to the cause of the fermentation of boiled substances . . . . .	1

## CHAPTER II.

### THE PARTICULATE THEORY OF FERMENTATION (*continued*).— ON THE FERMENTATION OF UNBOILED SUBSTANCES.

Grape juice—Gay-Lussac—Van der Broeck—Pasteur—Roberts; blood—Van der Broeck—Pasteur—Burdon-Sanderson—Lister—My own results; unboiled urine—Van der Broeck—Pasteur—Lister—My own results—Roberts—Cazeneuve and Livon; milk—Hoppe-Seyler—Roberts—Lister—My own experiments; egg albumen—Van der Broeck—Gayon—Roberts—My own experiments; vegetable tissues—Roberts; animal tissues—Billroth—Tiegel—Burdon-Sanderson—My own experiments—Chiene and Ewart—Meissner—General review of the facts—Behaviour of fluids and tissues in the living body—Principles of aseptic surgery . . . . .	30
---	----

## CHAPTER III.

### ASEPTIC SURGERY—MATERIALS EMPLOYED.

Problems to be solved in order to keep a wound aseptic: Carbolic acid—Carbolic lotions—Pure carbolic acid—Solution in methylated spirit—carbolic oil—Carbolic acid and glycerine: Spray producers: Catgut	
---	--

	PAGE
—Carbolised catgut—Mr. Lister's carbolised chromic catgut—Dr. MacEwen's chromic catgut—Catgut trough and pocket case: Carbolised silk: Protective: Carbolic gauze—Composition—Method of preparation—Von Brun's gauze: Macintosh: Sponges: Boracic acid—Boracic lotion—Boracic lint—Boracic ointment: Salicylic acid—Salicylic acid cream—Salicylic ointment: Chloride of zinc: Iodoform: Carbolised cotton wool . . . . .	52

## CHAPTER IV.

ASEPTIC SURGERY (*continued*).

Example of an aseptic operation: Purification of the skin—Fingers—Instruments: Spray—Precautions—Probable errors, and mode of remedying them: Guard: Ligature of arteries: Drainage of wounds—India-rubber tubes—Catgut drains—Horse hair—Decalcified bone tubes (Neuber's and MacEwen's): Sutures: Button stitches—Stitches of relaxation—Stitches of coaptation—Aseptic strapping—Protective: Deep dressing: Loose gauze: Gauze dressing: Elastic bandage. CHANGING THE DRESSINGS—Time—Method. TREATMENT OF ULCERS: Purification of the sore: Boracic dressing: Boracic and salicylic ointment: Boracic poultice . . . . .	67
--	----

## CHAPTER V.

ASEPTIC SURGERY (*continued*).

Special dressings: Head dressings: Neck dressings: Breast dressings—Abscess of mamma—Excision of mamma alone—Excision of mamma and axillary glands: Axillary dressings: Dressings on the limbs: Dressings for psoas abscess: Lumbar abscess: Hip-joint abscess: Dressings in cases of hernia and operations on the scrotum: Excisions of joints. Aseptic treatment of abscesses. Chief points to be considered in opening abscesses—Method of opening abscesses—Drainage of abscesses—After-treatment of abscesses—Empyema—Perineal and anal abscesses. Treatment of wounds produced accidentally: Problem to be solved—Purification of wound—Further treatment of the wound. Special wounds: Compound fractures: Wounds involving tendons, nerves, &c.: Wounds of joints: Compound fractures of the skull: Penetrating wounds of the thorax: Wounds of the abdomen. Putrid sinuses and wounds. Treatment of burns. Treatment of gangrene. Treatment of nævi and varicose veins . . . . .	96
---	----

## CHAPTER VI.

## ASEPTIC SURGERY—MODIFICATIONS.

Country practice: How to dispense with the spray during the operation—and during the after-treatment: How to render the dressings less fre-	
---	--

	PAGE
quent. Is the aseptic method applicable in war? Mr. Lister's suggestions: Esmarch's plan: Reyher's method. Development of Aseptic Surgery in Mr. Lister's hands: Compound fractures—Pure carbolic acid—Formation of crust—Carbolic putty—Lead plaster—Lac plaster, syringing wounds with carbolic lotion, protective, catgut ligatures, method in 1870—Present method in the main introduced in 1871—Further introduction of wet gauze, steam spray, elastic bandages: abscesses—Method of opening them under carbolic oil: wounds . . . . .	120

## CHAPTER VII.

ASEPTIC SURGERY (*concluded*).

Other methods of carrying out Aseptic Surgery. Substitutes for carbolic acid: Salicylic acid: Thymol: Acetate of Alumina: Eucalyptus oil. Aseptic surgery by filtration of the air. Subcutaneous surgery . . . . .	136
--	-----

## CHAPTER VIII.

## THEORIES OF SPONTANEOUS GENERATION, HETEROGENESIS AND ABIOGENESIS.

Principles on which other methods of Antiseptic Surgery act. Organisms are always present in fermenting liquids: their significance. Theory of the origin of organisms independently of a parent. Theories of Needham and Buffon: Needham's proofs. Spallanzani's experiments: Needham's objections: Spallanzani's replies. Schulze's experiments. Schwann—Schroeder and Dusch—Schroeder. Doctrine of Heterogenesis. Pouchet's work: his method of testing the matter: proofs that the source of the organisms in infusions is neither the air, water, nor the putrescible substances: modes of repeating Schulze's and Schwann's experiments: examination of dust. Criticism of his results. Pasteur's experiments: results with ordinary fluids: introduction of dust into sterilised fluids: results with milk and alkaline fluids: the cause in the air which gives rise to the growth of organisms is particulate: Pasteur's cultivating fluid: estimate of Pasteur's work. Pouchet's reply: New experiments—Criticism of these . . . . .	145
--	-----

## CHAPTER IX.

SPONTANEOUS GENERATION (*continued*).

The experiments of Jeffries Wyman: explanation of the results: Wyman's views on the subject. Dr. Bastian's views: Cases in which it is still possible that abiogenesis may occur: Growth in vacuo—Bastian's experiments—my own results—Cohn's facts—Dr. Roberts's objections, the walls of the vessels remain impure—Bastian's reply—Objections to the latter—Gruithuisen's experiments—Paul Bert's results with	
--	--

compressed air—Pouchet looks on a vacuum as preventing spontaneous generation—Paul Bert's results with rarefied air—Dr. Bastian does not always get positive results: Experiments in airless and hermetically sealed flasks raised to a high temperature—Objections—Prof. Huxley's and Dr. Sanderson's statements—Ray Lankester's results—Hartley's experiments with alkaline fluids—Roberts's counter-experiment. Mr. Lister's experiments. Experiments by Roberts and Tyndall . . . 172

## CHAPTER X.

SPONTANEOUS GENERATION (*concluded*).

Facts with regard to unboiled fluids and tissues: Mr. Lister's facts with regard to milk: my own experiments with animal tissues. Present state of the question—Dr. Bastian's latest standpoint: Liebig's doctrine. Can organic molecules derived otherwise than from pre-existing bacteria give rise to bacteria? Firstly, there is nothing unreasonable in looking on these particles as bacteria or their germs: seeds carried by air: excessive minuteness of the germs of bacteria: Mr. Lister's experience with micrococci. Secondly, there is no direct evidence that organic molecules not derived from bacteria can give rise to bacteria: facts with regard to unboiled fluids and tissues—conclusions from these facts: Paul Bert's experiments: Cazeneuve and Livon: Pasteur: Dr. Bastian. Thirdly, there is no evidence that active organic molecules (chemical ferments, &c.) can resist heat more than living things can: effects of heat on ptyalin, pepsin, &c.: my own case of difficulty in sterilising milk: Wyman's fact as to an alga living at 208 F. . . . 194

## CHAPTER XI.

## RELATION OF MICRO-ORGANISMS TO FERMENTATION.

Summary of what has preceded with reference to fermentation. Relation between 'vital' and 'chemical' fermentations: theories of fermentation. Liebig's views. Alcoholic fermentation: *Pasteur's experiments and conclusions. Résumé.* Butyric fermentation. Formation of pigment by bacteria. *Schroeter: Cohn.* Viscous fermentation. Lactic fermentation. *Pasteur: Lister.* Other fermentations, especially the putrefactive: *Lemaire; Cazeneuve and Livon: Paul Bert.* Conclusions . . . . 205

## CHAPTER XII.

## RELATION OF MICRO-ORGANISMS TO THE FLUIDS AND TISSUES OF THE LIVING BODY.

Proposed mode of enquiry—Does the aseptic method prevent putrefaction? Does it exclude organisms from wounds? Ranke's results:

Klebs' objection: Ranke's reply: Demarquay: Fischer: Schüller: my own method—Results in aseptic wounds—Results in wounds treated otherwise—Koch's method of staining pus—Results in cases not treated aseptically—Examples of complete exclusion of organisms in aseptic cases—Examples of the entrance of micrococci in aseptic cases—Definition of micrococci—Distinctions between micrococci and bacteria. Are organisms present in the healthy living body?—'Bistournage.' Are organisms present in the body in states of disease?—Experiments with ammonia, phosphorus, &c.—The healthy blood and tissues can destroy organisms—Relation of organisms to abscesses. How do micrococci enter aseptic wounds? Carbolic lotion a sufficient germicide; Spray, its value—Stimson's experiments; Gauze dressing as a protection against entrance of organisms; Carbolic acid as a germicide in albuminous fluids; Relations of micrococci and bacteria to fluids containing carbolic acid. Conclusions . . . . 225

## CHAPTER XIII.

## ANTISEPTIC SURGERY.

Complete definition of antiseptic surgery. Varieties of antiseptic surgery. TREATMENT BY ANTISEPTICS: Carbolic acid—objections to it: Chloride of zinc: Boracic acid: Sulphurous acid: Chlorinated Soda: Alcohol—Hutchinson's method: Terebene and Sanitas—Bilguer's method—Neudörfer's salicylic powder. FREE DRAINAGE AS AN ANTISEPTIC METHOD. IRRIGATION AND IMMERSION. OPEN METHOD: Modes in which it acts antiseptically: Bartscher and Vezin's method: Burow's method: Rose's modification. HEALING BY SCABBING: Methods of forming a crust: Bouisson's ventilation method: other modes. GUÉRIN'S COTTON-WOOL DRESSING. MODES IN WHICH THE DESTRUCTIVE ACTION OF THE TISSUES ON BACTERIA IS ASSISTED. Why does not fermentation always occur in the blood in wounds in which organisms are present? Best practical methods. Conclusions . . . . 265

## CHAPTER XIV.

## HISTORY OF ANTISEPTIC SURGERY.

Practice of the ancient writers. Attempts of the ancients to secure immediate union of wounds. Paré and Paracelsus: Delacroix: Arcæus: Progress of wound treatment in the sixteenth century. Seventeenth century: Magatus: Wiseman: Colbatch: Progress in the seventeenth century. Eighteenth century and the early part of the nineteenth: Boerhaave: Col de Villars: Heister: Bilguer: Benjamin Bell: Abernethy: John Hunter's objections to the views of Bell and Abernethy: John Bell: opinion and practice of other surgeons: Conclusions: Von Kern . . . . 290

## CHAPTER XV.

HISTORY OF ANTISEPTIC SURGERY (*continued*).

History of the various methods. Incubation: Guyot. Subcutaneous surgery, preliminary attempts: Stromeyer: Dieffenbach: Jules Guérin: Langenbeck: Other authors. Occlusion: Jules Guérin: Chassaignac—Rochard's remarks: Pansement ouaté—Alphonse Guérin, method and results—Ollier. Substitution of various gases for air: Demarquay and Leconte. Open Method: Bartscher and Vezin: Burow: Humphrey. Healing by scabbing: John Hunter: Neudörfer: Bennion: Lister: Bouisson: Bonnet, &c. Irrigation and the water-bath: early history: Jossé: Bérard: Mayor: Amussat: Langenbeck: Valette . . . . . 317

## CHAPTER XVI.

HISTORY OF ANTISEPTIC SURGERY (*concluded*).

Use of antiseptics: Alcohol—older writers—Nélaton—Hutchinson: Glycerine—Demarquay: Chlorine: Chloride of zinc: Iodine: Iodoform: Chlorate of Potash: Perchloride of iron, &c.: Coal tar—Corne and Demeaux—Report of the commission: Coal tar saponiné—Lemaire—his views on putrefaction: Carbolic acid—Lemaire—Lemaire's position in regard to Aseptic Surgery—Lister: Further phases in the history of this subject: Objections to Mr. Lister's claim as originator of the Aseptic method—Simpson—Neudörfer. Modifications of the method. Substitutes for carbolic acid. Objections to the Aseptic method . . . . . 347

## CHAPTER XVII.

## RESULTS OF ANTISEPTIC SURGERY.

Chief points for consideration: How far do the various methods prevent fermentations in wounds? How to ascertain the true value of any individual method. The value of the various methods in guarding against infective disease: meaning of the term 'infective disease' Relations of Aseptic Surgery to infective disease. *Mr. Lister's results in Glasgow. The recent Glasgow statistics. Mr. Lister's results in Edinburgh; results in septic and aseptic cases—Mr. Spence's practice—Mr. Syme's results—Mr. Lister's results at King's College Hospital:—Volkmann—Nussbaum—Socin—Saxtorph—Esmarch—Hueter—Czerny—Lucas—Championnière—Gross—Létiévant—Panas—Schede—Reyher—Spencer Wells—Keith—Thornton. Thiersch's results with salicylic acid. Thymol. The relations of other forms of Antiseptic Surgery to these diseases—Treatment by Antiseptics—Reyher—Lister—Nélaton—Hutchinson. Occlusion—Jules Guérin—Alphonse Guérin. Treatment by irrigation and water bath—Langenbeck—Valette. Open*

*Method—Bartscher and Vezin—Burow—Krönlein. Results where no antiseptic measures were adopted—Billroth—Malgaigne—Paul—Holmes—Erichsen. Results of cleanliness—McVail—Bardenheuer . . . . . 365*

## CHAPTER XVIII.

RESULTS OF ANTISEPTIC SURGERY (*continued*).

General considerations. Wounds of, and operations on, healthy joints. Method of treatment adopted in these cases. Definition of the term 'Aseptic course': Example. Wounds of healthy joints. Operations on healthy joints. Objections to the value of these cases: reply. Incisions into joints affected with synovitis. Incisions into joints affected with pulpy degeneration of the synovial membrane—a without suppuration, *b* with suppuration. Volkmann's results: Max Schede: Paul Barth: Saxtorph: Piéchaud: Nussbaum: Albert: Hueter: Létiévant: Kraske: Reyher: Bergmann. Comparison of Reyher's results with those obtained during the Crimean war, and with Heintzel's. Treatment by irrigation. Necessity for observing the minutest precautions as shown by Mr. Lister's case. Results of removing foreign bodies from joints without aseptic precautions: Larrey: Spence: Paget . . . . . 417

## CHAPTER XIX.

RESULTS OF ANTISEPTIC SURGERY (*continued*).

Compound fractures. Differences between those produced accidentally and those caused by the surgeon: treatment and after-progress of each class. Tables of accidental compound fractures treated by Mr. Lister: *thigh; leg; humerus; forearm; skull; summary of results.* Tables of compound fractures produced intentionally by Mr. Lister; *femur; leg; clavicle; humerus; forearm; lower jaw.* General summary of Mr. Lister's results. Mr. Spence's results. Other operations on bones by Mr. Lister. MacEwen's osteotomies: Volkmann: Max Schede: Bardenheuer: MacCormac. Combined aseptic results. Results by other methods. Volkmann and Fraenckel: Holmes: St. Thomas's Hospital. Reyher's results in war. Open method: Krönlein. Septic methods . . . . . 461

## CHAPTER XX.

RESULTS OF ANTISEPTIC SURGERY (*continued*).

Abscesses connected with disease of the vertebræ. Best situation for opening psoas abscesses: best time for opening them: after-treatment and after-progress. Table of Mr. Lister's results: general summary and remarks on these cases. Comparative statistics are wanting. Sir James Paget's views . . . . . 517

## CHAPTER XXI.

RESULTS OF ANTISEPTIC SURGERY (*concluded*).

General consideration of the results. Results of the various methods in saving life. Results in avoiding infective disease. Cleanliness: definition of the term: Mr. Savory's definition and method: cleanliness has not abolished infective disease even in healthy hospitals: cleanliness is a complex method: infective disease may appear even in the best hygienic conditions. The source of infective disease. Conclusions as to the value of the various methods in preventing infective disease. Deaths from prolonged suppuration after chronic abscesses, compound fractures, &c. Operations on weak or diseased individuals are rendered possible by the aseptic method. Operations otherwise unjustifiable, but nevertheless necessary for the recovery of the patient, may be safely done by the aseptic method. The patient may be made a more useful member of society: joint cases: tenotomy, &c.: compound fracture: dangers of operations of convenience. Local results of wounds treated aseptically: absence of pain, inflammation, &c.: experiments of Yeo and Ferrier: organisation of blood-clot, catgut, sloughs, &c. Histological details of the process: Tillmann's experiments. Temperature in aseptic cases: contrast with septic cases. Local and constitutional course of cases not treated aseptically. Objections to aseptic surgery: carbolic acid poisoning: the surgeon is said to neglect the constitutional state of the patient: expense: trouble: necessity for the spray. Conclusion: great principle of wound treatment is Rest . . . . . 540

INDEX . . . . . 603

PAGE

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
1. Schwann's method of admitting heated air to putrescible fluids . . . . .	7
2. Schroeder and Dusch's apparatus for supplying filtered air . . . . .	13
3. Pasteur's flask with the bent neck . . . . .	16
4. Door of Mr. Lister's hot box . . . . .	18
5. Mr. Lister's hot box . . . . .	18
6. Mr. Lister's large double-necked flasks . . . . .	19
7. Method of filling these flasks . . . . .	20
8. Mr. Lister's arrangement to protect fluids in liqueur glasses from dust	21
9. Mode of filling Mr. Lister's liqueur glasses . . . . .	21
10. Dr. Roberts's bulbs (copied from Roberts) . . . . .	23
11. Prof. Tyndall's pure chamber (copied from Tyndall) . . . . .	24
12. Dr. Roberts's experiments with grape juice (from Roberts) . . . . .	33
13. Pasteur's method of obtaining fresh blood (from Pasteur) . . . . .	34
14. Beaker containing unboiled meat and a putrescible fluid . . . . .	46
15. Hand spray producer . . . . .	54
16. The ordinary steam spray producer . . . . .	54
17. Steam spray producer, showing the lamp at present in use . . . . .	55
18. Large steam spray producer with double nozzle for ovariectomy, &c. . . . .	56
19. Trough for catgut . . . . .	59
20. Lister's pocket catgut holder . . . . .	59
21. Machine used in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary for manufacturing gauze . . . . .	63
22. Porcelain trough containing instruments soaking in carbolic lotion . . . . .	70
23. General arrangement of surgeon, assistants, towels, spray, &c., in an operation performed with complete aseptic precautions . . . . .	71
24. To show the arrangement of towels, &c., in a large operation . . . . .	72
25a. Method of tying vessels in dense tissues . . . . .	75