

SURGERY (from the Oxford English Dictionary)

1. a. The art or practice of treating injuries, deformities, and other disorders by manual operation or instrumental appliances; surgical treatment.

13.. Sir Beues (A.) 3672 Boe fysik and sirgirie he hadde lerned of meisters grete. c1386 CHAUCER Prol. 413 In al this world ne was ther noon hym lik To speke of phisik and of Surgerye. c1450 Mankind 850 in Macro Plays 32 Whyll a wond ys fresch, yt ys prowyd curabyll be surgery. 1505 in Marwick Edinb. Guilds (1909) 59 That na..person..vse ony poyntis of saidis craftis of surregerie or barbour craft within this burgh bott gif [etc.]. 1600 SHAKES. A.Y.L. III. ii. 64 And they [sc. our hands] are often tarr'd ouer, with the surgery of our sheepe. 1604 Oth. II. iii. 260 Iago. What are you hurt Lieutenant? Cas. I, past all Surgery. 1667 DAVENANT & DRYDEN Tempest V. i. (1670) 77 Henceforward let your Surgery alone, for I had Rather he should dye, than you should cure his wound. 1777 COOK Voy. Pacific III. ix. (1784) II. 152 They perform cures in surgery, which our extensive knowledge..has not..enabled us to imitate. 1861 F. NIGHTINGALE Nursing (ed. 2) 94 Surgery removes the bullet out of the limb, which is an obstruction to cure, but nature heals the wound. 1887 Brit. Med. Jnl. 22 Jan. 166/2 Dental Surgery. 1897 W. ANDERSON Surg. Treatm. Lupus 2 A bold and skilful surgery is usually exercised in the one case, and only half-hearted measures in the other.

b. Phr. (to take, go) to surgery, for or to surgical treatment; (to lie, be) at surgery, under surgical treatment, in the doctor's hands. Obs.

1398 TREVISA Barth. De P.R. VII. lv. (1495) riv/1 They [that haue the stone] shall be take to surgery. 1535 COVERDALE Jer. xlvi. 11 In vayne shalt thou go to surgery, for thy wounde shall not be stopped. 1555 in Strype Eccl. Mem. (1721) III. App. xlv. 137 How manye mens wyves and doughters in Flaunders lye at surgerye. 1565 STAPLETON tr. Bede's Hist. Ch. Eng. 146 While he was at surgerie in curing he dyed. 1586 J. HOOKER Hist. Irel. in Holinshed II. 93/1 Taking his waie to Downemore..where he laie at surgerie.

c. fig.

1628 WITHER Brit. Rememb. IV. 1428 God shend us from the harm

Of such like Surgery. 1643 MILTON Divorce II. xvii. Wks. 1851 IV. 109 A..creature,..to whose ease you cannot adde the tithe of one small atome, but by letting alone your unhelpfull surgery. 1845 CARLYLE Cromwell v. (1871) II. 143 Terrible Surgery this: but is it Surgery and Judgment, or atrocious Murder merely? 1913 H. W. CLARK Hist. Engl. Nonconf. III. i. II. 69 Nonconformity had entered far too deeply into the nation's life to be eradicated by the severest surgery of law.

d. Math. The topological alteration of manifolds by conceptually removing a neighbourhood and replacing it by another having the same boundary; an instance of this.

1961 J. MILNOR in Proc. Symp. Pure Math. III. 39 Given any imbedding of $S^p \times D^{q+1}$ in a manifold W of dimension $n = p + q + 1$, a new manifold W' can be formed by removing the interior of $S^p \times D^{q+1}$ and replacing it by the interior of $D^{p+1} \times S^q$. This procedure will be called surgery. Ibid. 40 A surgery of type $(0, n + 1)$ replaces W by the disjoint sum $W + S^n$. 1974 Encycl. Brit. Macropdia XVIII. 503/1 If M is an oriented manifold of dimension $n \geq 4$, one can, by a succession of surgeries of index 1, kill the whole fundamental group π_1 of M . 1979 M. A. ARMSTRONG Basic Topology vii. 162 The result is a surface homeomorphic to the torus. A further surgery will give us the sphere.

2. a. The room or office in a general practitioner's house or a health centre where patients are seen and treatment is prescribed; the regular session at which a doctor receives patients for consultation in his surgery.

1846 Bentley's Misc. June 549 A small den [Dr. Faunce] called 'the surgery'. 1862 M. E. BRADDON Lady Audley xxxix, The door of the little surgery was ajar... The surgeon was standing at the mahogany counter, mixing a draught in a glass measure. 1872 L. P. MEREDITH Teeth (1878) 252 In some localities, the dentists..crowd their surgeries together in the same building. 1938 F. B. YOUNG Dr. Bradley Remembers i. 1 Between six and eight..Dr. Bradley 'took' his evening surgery as usual. 1944 J. D. CARR Till Death do Us Part xi. 113 I've got to be back..for surgery at half-past ten. 1964 D. FRANCIS Nerve v. 73 I'm late for surgery... Those pills ought to keep him quiet. 1975 'J. BELL' Victim ii. 23 Dr. Swallow was dealing with his morning surgery.

b. Hence, a session at which a Member of Parliament, local councillor, etc., is available to be consulted locally by his constituents, usu. on regular occasions. Also, the room or office at which this occurs.

1951 Hansard (Commons) 19 Feb. 966 It is a practice of mine..to call personally upon as many of my constituents as I can, and I find that by doing this a different set of problems is presented to me from those which my post-bag or even my weekly 'surgery' bring. 1957 Times 22 Apr. 7/7 On the question of surgeries, they are largely a self-imposed task about which MP's cannot complain since they are so often the chosen method of getting votes at the next election. 1964 G. E. NOEL Harold Wilson & 'New Britain' xiv. 111 As Prime Minister he intends, whenever humanly possible, to retain the system initiated in Ormskirk of personally visiting constituents who have reported problems instead of obliging them to attend 'surgeries'. 1968 Times 7 Nov. 11/5, I was at my 'surgery' near the hall when constituents called to complain that they could not gain admittance to the meeting. a1974 R. CROSSMAN Diaries (1975) I. 258, I am going to have three successive days sitting on the front bench, followed on Friday by a full day of official visitations and a surgery in Coventry. 1982 P. TURNBULL Dead Knock vii. 126 Councillor Floyd..was holding a surgery in the Council Chambers.

c. A similar occasion when free advice is provided by lawyers, accountants, or others.

1973 Observer (Colour Suppl.) 18 Nov. 39/1 The law surgery..run by the Sheffield Free Legal Information Service. 1980 Daily Tel. 7 June 19/3 An increasing number of Citizens' Advice Bureaux have regular 'surgeries' chaired by volunteer local accountants. 1981 Times 4 Apr. 2/5 The Asian community is..providing census 'surgeries' for householders.

3. attrib.

1612 WOODALL Surg. Mate Pref., Wks. (1653) 8 The fitting and furnishing their Surgerie Chests with medicines. Ibid. 19 Severall proportions or explainings..of Surgery provisions. 1848 THACKERAY Van. Fair xxxviii, He would abstract lozenges..from the surgery-drawers. 1872 TENNYSON In Children's Hospital i, Fresh from the surgery-schools of France. 1881 Instr. Census Clerks (1885) 31 Hospital and Surgery Officer.