funnel. The pharynx is tamponed with iodoform gauze. Through the funnel the patient respires and can be narcotized. In this manner it is possible in operations upon the mouth and pharynx to prevent aspiration of blood and wound secretions and glottic spasm without performing tracheotomy. The author has tried his method in several cases with good results. He has also found that his apparatus may remain twenty hours in the trachea without damage. *Michael.*

Morris, Henry (London).—*On the Value of Sutures in Cut-Throat.* "Lancet," Dec. 24, 1892.

THE author describes cases in support of his views as to the advantages of the free use of buried sutures uniting accurately end to end the cut edges of each structure which has been divided—cartilage with cartilage, membrane (*e.g.*, thyro-hyoid) with membrane, muscle with muscle, fascia with fascia, and skin with skin—and the insertion of a few pieces of drainage tube at selected points. He impresses the necessity of securely fixing the head and steadying the neck during the healing of the wounds after closure by sutures. The advantages are that union by first intention is secured with such rapidity that, during the whole of the process, the patient can be supported by rectal feeding entirely, thus avoiding the distress and mischief arising from attempts at swallowing, and the discomforts attending feeding by an œsophageal tube. There is less risk of fistula or of contraction, and freedom from the alleged (unfounded) risk of suffocation from the detached portion of the epiglottis falling over the upper aperture of the larynx. *Dundas Grant.*

Pollard, Bilton (London).—*On the Value of Sutures in Cut-Throat.* "Lancet," Dec. 31, 1892.

THE author quotes cases of his own in support of the views expressed by Mr. Henry Morris. *Dundas Grant.*

THYROID GLAND, &c.

Hoffmeister.—*Physiology of the Thyroid Gland.* "Fortschritt der Medicin," 1892, Nos. 3 and 4.

THE author has extirpated the thyroid gland in a great many rabbits. In all cases he found vicarious enlargements of the thymus and spleen, enlargement of the hypophysis, diminished developments of the bones and the epiphyses, enlargement of the ovaries through increased development of follicles, and pathological changes in the kidneys. *Michael.*

Gibson (Brisbane).—*The Function of the Thyroid Gland.* "Brit. Med. Journ.," Jan. 4, 1893.

A PAPER recording the case of a child, where the thyroid appeared to be absent, and into whose body the author twice grafted the thyroid of a lamb. *Inter alia*, the author is averse to believing, from observations on dogs

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755146300149911 Published online by Cambridge University Press

etc., in any blood-forming function of the thyroid, as in his experiments the corpuscular elements remain unaffected after thyroidectomy. The author adheres to the hypothesis of Schiff that the gland secretes some substance whose absorption into the blood is essential to life, also to the extension of the same by Canalis, viz., that the substance secreted is essential for the nourishment of the central nervous system. The gland secretes, not excretes. The author, besides, refers to a previous communication of his own, that any hæmopoietic function the gland may appear to have in certain animals is due only to the presence of lymph follicle tissue in the thyroids of such animals. The author now, as previously, demurs to the total excision of the thyroid. The case referred to in the paper was that of a child, aged two years, presenting thickening of the subcutaneous and submucous tissues, and great stolidity. Two years later the myxœdematous condition was more marked. Nothing abnormal in the urine. There are photographs scattered through the text, which show that the thyroid grafting into the peritoneal cavity in this case was attended by most favourable results. *Wm. Robertson.*

Eiselberg (Wien).—*Further Contributions to the Study of the Consequences of Operations upon Goitre.* "Billroth's Festschrift," 1892.

OF fifty-two cases of total extirpation of goitre operated on in Billroth's clinic there arose symptoms of cachexia in seventy per cent. Of forty-seven cases of partial extirpation, cachexia followed in only one case. Of great interest also is one case of cachexia following upon acute suppuration of the thyroid gland. *Michael.*

Hinterstrisser (Teschen).—*Contribution to the Study of Cancer of the Thyroid Gland.* "Billroth's Festschrift," 1892.

A STATISTICAL report upon fifty cases of this disease observed in the Pathological Institute of Vienna. Of special surgical interest are the adhesions of the tumour to the neighbouring organs. The following histological forms have been observed: adeno-carcinoma, medullary carcinoma, and fibrous carcinoma. The differential diagnosis between benign and malignant neoplasms is sometimes rather difficult. Operations up to the present give very bad results. *Michael.*

Wette (Jena).—*Contribution to the Symptomatology and Surgical Treatment of Goitre, and the relation between Morbus Basedowii (Graves' Disease) and Goitre.* "Langenbech's Archiv," Band 44, Heft 3 and 4.

FROM July, 1882, to November, 1891, Professor Riedel operated upon ninety-two goitres. The study of these cases led to the following results:—(1) Most cases were operated upon because of malformation, or on account of palpitation and dyspnœa. The high frequency of the pulse cannot be regarded in all cases as caused by the goitre, and remained sometimes after operation and the disappearance of all other symptoms. The palpitation in cases of goitre may be caused by increased venosity of the blood, and by irritation of the nervi laryngei inferioris by pressure of the tumour. The dyspnœa is caused by compression or deviation of the trachea. Such malformations of the trachea

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755146300149911 Published online by Cambridge University Press

were observed in twenty-four cases. By all causes which increase the flow of blood to the goitre dyspnœa is increased, especially by muscular movements, and by menstruation and pregnancy. The highest degrees of dyspnœa were observed in substernal goitres. In these cases every enlargement of the goitre increases the intra-thoracic pressure. It may produce hoarseness by unilateral paralysis of a vocal cord by pressure upon the recurrent nerve, and dysphagia by pressure on the œsophagus. Dyspnœa may also be produced by bronchitis and by compression of the vena cava. In one of the cases paralysis of one sympathetic nerve was observed. (2) The next chapter describes the total and partial extirpation of goitres, the enucleation of goitres, the technique and the dangers of the different methods of operation. The details are of surgical interest, and must be read in the original. *Michael.*

Speyer.—*Strumectomy in Morbus Basedowii (Graves' Disease).* Freie Vereinigung der Chirurgen in Berlin, Meeting, Jan. 2, 1893.

A PATIENT, twenty-one years old, had presented goitre since early youth. During the preceding ten weeks there had been loss of weight and cachexia. A tumour of the size of a fist existed in the anterior region of the neck. Extirpation was performed. Some weeks later, cachexia increased. Pleuritis and death followed. The *post-mortem* examination showed tumours to exist in the lung. The microscopical examination revealed sarcomatous degeneration of the struma. *Michael.*

Neumann.—*Operation upon a Case of Morbus Basedowii.* Freie Vereinigung der Chirurgen in Berlin, Meeting, Jan. 2, 1893.

BY strumectomy all symptoms of the disease have disappeared. *Michael.*

Winckler (Bremen).—*In what Cases are Intra-Nasal Operations indicated in Morbus Basedowii (Graves' Disease)?* "Wiener Med. Woch.," 1892, Nos. 40 to 44.

THE author concludes, after reviewing the literature of the subject, that polypi, vegetations, or malformations which produce complete obstruction of the nose should be removed in cases of Basedow's disease, but that it is not proper to treat small irregularities in the nose from which the patient suffers no inconvenience. *Michael.*

Anderson, T. McCall.—*The Treatment of Myxœdema.* "Practitioner," Jan., 1893.

"MUCH may be accomplished from a line of treatment naturally sug-"gested by the character of the symptoms, and by the circumstance "just mentioned, that these patients suffer in cold and improve greatly "in warm weather." A case is cited in detail in illustration, that of a young woman of twenty, presenting marked symptoms of myxœdema, and who was put upon strychnine and arsenic, with daily shampooings for half an hour. Every third day she had—first day, a vapour bath; second day, quarter grain of pilocarpin; third day, a hot electric bath for half an hour, each of which procedure made her perspire profusely. Within ten days improvement was manifest, the skin became smooth and soft, she felt warmer, and the "shivering in the inside" and headache

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755146300149911 Published online by Cambridge University Press

completely disappeared. The treatment was continued from May to August, 1884, when she left the hospital with very great improvement.

The author thinks that the administration of the thyroid gland of the sheep or pig, or a fluid extract, by the mouth or by subcutaneous injection, is a complement to the method of treatment above indicated; the object aimed at being to replace the secretion of the thyroid gland which is absent, and results so far have vastly exceeded expectation.

A second case is recorded in detail of a woman of thirty, who was treated with arsenic and iron for about six weeks without benefit, and was then put upon the administration of thyroid juice (Brady's preparation of Dr. Murray's extract), twenty minims being given by the mouth on four consecutive days, after which an interval of three days was allowed before any more was given. The treatment was begun on October 31st, and on November 21st the swelling had almost disappeared, the skin was still very dry, temperature rose to 98·4, and menstruation was regular. On December 14th the number of blood corpuscles had increased from 3,040,000 to 3,400,000 per cubic millimètre, the swelling of the body had entirely gone, the weight had fallen one stone one and a half pounds since beginning the treatment, the mental and bodily hebetude had entirely disappeared, the speech and intellectual faculties were perfect, and patient was of opinion that she was quite well.

The author thinks it interesting to compare the administration of thyroid extract by the mouth with its use subcutaneously, a good illustration of which is given by Dr. Napier in the "Glasgow Med. Journ.," September, 1892. The thyroid extract given by the mouth appears to be quite as effective as when given by subcutaneous injection, without the disadvantages of the latter, such as alarming symptoms (tonic spasm and loss of consciousness, especially if not injected very slowly) immediately after injection; indurations, and abscess at the seat of puncture, fever, etc. In order to prevent abscesses the treatment must be repeated from time to time, which can be more conveniently done by the mouth.

Dr. Anderson thinks it premature to speak positively as to the curative effect of the remedy. It undoubtedly gives great relief and dissipates all the unpleasant symptoms in a comparatively short space of time, but evidence, so far, points to tendency to recrudescence of the symptoms. No doubt, however, a new valuable remedy has been discovered.

R. Norris Wolfenden.

Guterbock.—*Case of Echinococcus of the Neck.* Freie Vereinigung der Chirurgen in Berlin, Meeting, Jan. 8, 1893.

A TUMOUR, resembling an inflamed scrofulous gland, was extirpated from the left side of the neck of a patient nineteen years old. When the incision was made an echinococcus cyst was removed. Cure followed.

Michael.

Gussenbauer (Prag).—*Contribution to the Knowledge of Branchiogenic Tumours.* "Billroth's Festschrift," 1892.

THE author has observed four cases of "cervical fistulæ." Only in one case was the fistula congenital; in the other three it developed

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755146300149911 Published online by Cambridge University Press

during life. All cases were cured by excision of the fistula. In eleven cases he observed cysts, which were also cured by extirpation. The microscopical examination showed the cysts to possess a wall of epithelium, and that they developed in lymph follicles and lymph glands, and are formed by lymphadenoid tissue. The author also relates eight cases of so-called "branchiogenic cancers," operation upon which was of great difficulty, because they had very early formed adhesions with the great vessels and the vagus nerve. *Michael.*

EAR.

Hartmann.—*Demonstration by a Skiopticon of Specimens of the Ear, the Frontal Sinus, the Antrum of Highmore, and the Septum of the Nose.* Berliner Medicinische Gesellschaft, Meeting, Dec. 14, 1892.

HE showed the ductus naso-frontalis in relation to the introduction of the probe, the nasal wall of the antrum of Highmore which sometimes only consists of mucous membrane, and can easily be perforated through the nose. He also showed a specimen of an antrum divided into three cavities by osseous walls, a cystic degeneration of the sinus, and some malformations of the nasal septum. *Michael.*

Barr, T. (Glasgow).—*A Striking Case of Simulated Deafness.* "Arch. of Otol.," Oct., 1892.

A SERVANT-GIRL who had apparently become very suddenly totally deaf was treated by her family doctor with blisters over the mastoids, iodide of potassium, strychnine and pilocarpin for a fortnight without result. She acquired with singular rapidity a great proficiency in lip-reading. There was no hearing power for the tuning-fork, conversation, or any sound. The ears appeared perfectly normal. Her lip-reading was found to be perfectly at fault when the speaker's lips and face moved without the utterance of sound. Suspicion of simulation was then entertained. She was detected through her singing the identical song which had been sung in her neighbourhood earlier in the day, though she had admitted she had never known it before. On being charged with the deception, she "began to hear a little in one ear," and in three days completely recovered her hearing. *Dundas Grant.*

Mygind, Holger (Copenhagen).—*Deaf-Mutes in Denmark.* "Arch. of Otol.," Oct., 1892.

DR. MYGIND, profiting by the fact that the Government of Denmark has since 1817 concerned itself with the registration and education of the deaf-mutes in that country, has analysed in a most interesting and instructive manner the statistics obtained. It was only in 1879 that returns in the present complete form were inaugurated, and he confines himself to the date relative to the period between 1879 and 1890. Among

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755146300149911 Published online by Cambridge University Press