

and the extremities quickly became paralytic, respirations were labored, and immediately before death clonic convulsions set in. If the doses were smaller the animals appeared normal for the first few minutes; soon, however, a peculiar motor unrest was evident; then the gait became unsteady, the animal fell, and the entire body lost tone. The extremities could still be moved volitionally, but with pronounced ataxia. There never was diarrhoea. In cats the pupils may become dilated, and the heart generally continues beating after the dyspnoea has led to respiratory paralysis. Examination of the different organs of the mussels showed that the poison is distributed over their entire body, but that the liver contains most of it. In a few cases the water in which the animals lived also proved toxic to mice. The chief factor which renders the mussels poisonous seems to be contamination of the sea in which they live. Either the impurities render the molluscus sick, or such impurities are stored up in them and are themselves the toxic agents. Sections made of the animals, however, failed to reveal any pathological changes in their organs, and the second supposition seems more probable, since the author found that the mussels would readily take up curare, strychnine, and the poisonous extract if added to their water without themselves becoming sick. It thus seems that they have a definite function in the stagnating water of harbors, and that by rendering harmful substances innocuous they purify it. The poison is readily soluble in water and alcohol, decomposes with alkalies and by bacterial action, but it could not be isolated in pure form.—*Archiv für experimentelle Pathologie und Pharmakologie*, 1902, vol. xlvii., Nos. 5 and 6, p. 311.

GYNECOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Cancer of the Uterus.—KRÖMER (*Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, No. 21, 1902) reports 102 cases of vaginal and 10 of abdominal hysterectomy; with a primary mortality in the former of 3.9 per cent., in the latter of 30 per cent.; 35 per cent. of the cases of cancer of the uterus examined by him were suitable for operation. The proportion of cures in the vaginal cases was 12.8 per cent.; after the abdominal four out of seven who survived were still free from recurrence. The writer rejects the latter method on account of the higher mortality and the impossibility of removing all the lymph nodes and vessels, as in the radical operation for cancer of the breast. So long as the difficulty of diagnosing infection of the glands exists, and the remote results are still uncertain, he will continue to perform radical vaginal extirpation.