ABSTRACTS OF CURRENT LITERATURE

SURGICAL.

TWO CASES OF "RUSTY NAIL" TETANUS WITH TETANUS BACILLI IN THE INGUINAL GLANDS.

By C. A. Porter, M.D., and Oscar Richardson, M.D., Boston. (Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Dec. 23, 1909, p. 927.)

The accepted teaching with reference to tetanus is that it is a pure toxemia, the infecting organisms being localized at the site of the wound of entrance. The authors report two cases following injuries of the foot in which the bacilli were demonstrated in the inguinal glands.

In the second case, that of boy aged 13, the pathologist was able to obtain the bacilli in pure culture both from the specimen tissues from the foot and from the glands. More notable, Koch's law was verified in each case by recovering the tetanus bacilli from rats which had been inoculated from the cultures.

Should further investigation confirm these findings and show that the bacilli do invade adjacent lymph glands, an important discovery has been made and one which will have a far-reaching effect upon the conception of the localized character of the infection as well as the treatment required. Radical removal of the lymph glands of connection may prove to be one of the earliest and most important indications in the management of these cases.

A. B. C.

OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY.

By Eugen Bircher, Zentralblatt für Chirurgie, Nov. 1, 1910.

The operation done is an osteo-plastic incision. The dura is usually found tense at the site of the disturbed centers, especially in genuine cases, but this tenseness is also often seen in Jacksonian epilepsy. The dura is cross-cut and turned back. The brain surface exposed is massaged, preferably with the thumb, for three to five minutes. No attention

is paid to the pia mater, which is not spared, of course, by those who excise the cortex. The massage may be repeated. The dura may be closed or used to construct a valvular opening (Kocher). It is absolutely necessary to open the dura, otherwise the effect is *nil*. In one of his first cases a small band of adhesion was removed from the inner surface of the skull. The epilepsy remained. At the second operation massage was done without opening the dura. The attacks returned after a short absence. At the third operation the dura was opened and massage applied directly. The attacks slowly disappeared and became weaker until they closed. They have not returned for four and one-half years, although the patient has meantime had an iron curtain pole to fall on his head. In three other cases cures have remained after two and half, two, and one-half years.

How this massage acts has been shown in a case that died of associate troubles eight weeks after massage of the brain. At the site of massage the cortex was found to be two to three mm. thick against eight to ten mm. elsewhere; at one point the gray matter had completely disappeared, exposing the white substance.

This treatment is of value in both traumatic and idiopathic cases.

W. A. B.

MEDICAL.

ACUTE DILATATION OF THE STOMACH WITH REPORT OF CASES.

By S. R. Hopkins, M.D., Omaha, Neb. (American Journal of Surgery, Jan. 1910, p. 11.)

After reporting in detail two personal cases in which acute dilation followed abdominal operations, the author gives the conclusions reached by other observers to the effect that the etiology of the condition consists in compression of the duodenum by the mesentery at the point where the gut is crossed by the