produced by nervous influences of permanent or mostly passing character, such as excessive fear or fright, is in the estimation of the author, one of the most important contra-indications against the use of chloroform.—*N. Y. Med. Record*, April 23, 1887.

VI. Tannic Acid as a Surgical Dressing. By T. J. HURTON, M. D. (Fergus Falls, Minnesota). Tannic acid forms an excellent dressing in three classes of wounds: (1). Incised wounds—applied after the sutures are inserted, or adhesive plaster is applied, if the wound does not require stitching. (2). Small wounds of irregular form and recent occurrence. (3). Wounds of moderate size in compound fractures. Wherever applicable, it excels all other dressings in the following respects: (a), convenience; (b), cheapness; (c), cleanliness; (d), efficiency. It is always ready and requires no mixing or measuring, and has neither smut nor smell. The author has used it with perfect satisfaction for sixteen years. The mode of application is simply to keep the wound covered with the powder. Healing under this dressing requires about one-third of the time demanded by liquid, oily or salve dressing.—*Jour. Am. Med. Assn.*, April 30, 1887.

JAMES E. PILCHER (U. S. Army).

VII. Coffee to Disguise the Odor of Iodoform. RICHARD NEALE, M. D. Dr. Neale says it is objectionable (1) because the deodorization does not last (2), because it is difficult to grind it fine enough. He recommends macerating the coffee in hot lard or vaseline. All the deodorizing powers are absorbed and an unirritating ointment can be prepared.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*, May 21, 1887, p. 1,095.

C. B. KEETLEY (London).

OPERATIVE SURGERY.

I. Kocher's Method of Ankle-Resection from an External Transverse Incision. By Dr. F. DUMONT (Bern). The many methods of resecting the ankle-joint are, D. suggests, owing to the limited applicability of each. He here describes the method practiced in Kocher's clinic since 1883, and claims that it gives a complete exposure of the joint. It is, therefore, suitable in most cases where the operation is indicated.