regards the operation, but some cystitis appeared, caused, I think, by over-anxiety of the nurse, who in order to make sure of destroying all septic germs soaked the catheter in too strong a solution of carbolic acid, which so softened the instrument that, I think, some bits of its covering were left adhering to the mucous membrane of the bladder. Perhaps also the mode of feeding aggravated matters; but I dared not and did not alter it, and with suitable treatment all cystitis gradually subsided. I need hardly say that it was not a case in which to rigidly adhere to gruel and sips of tepid or iced water. Instead, directly the operation was over, I commenced with nutrient enemata every two or three hours, and after twelve hours prepared essence of beef, brandy, zymised milk, &c., were given by mouth. Until she was convalescent I am afraid to say how much brandy, coca wine, and essence of beef she consumed; but it was a very large quantity. On one thing I was determined—namely, that if she died it should not be from exhaustion. There is also another part of treatment that was carried out in this case which I think I may pronounce as being of immense benefit—viz., hypodermic injections of sulphuric ether, not only during the operation, but also during convalescence. The nurse's instructions were to give the injections whenever she thought that the patient looked, or expressed herself as feeling, exhausted, even if she had had stimulants by the mouth only a short time previously. Exhaustion was to mean hypodermic injection at once. I must say that this treatment acted splendidly. She is now (Aug. 24th, 1894) in most robust health, driving, and walking, and looks as if she would live to be a hundred years of age.

Remarks.—The interest of this case lies not only in the extreme age of the patient, but also in that it clears up a doubtful fact, for it is proved to be quite possible to have a parovarian cyst removed and subsequently for a true ovarian cyst to be developed on the same side; and this opens up an important point—viz., whether it is good surgery to simply shell out a parovarian cyst, leaving the appendages, or whether it is not better to remove everything on that side. Had I done this in 1887 I should not now be in the position, for the time being, of holding the honour of having performed successful ovariectomy in a patient of the most advanced age.

Brisbane, Queensland.

Clinical Notes:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL, AND THERAPEUTICAL.

A CURIOUS CASE OF CARBOLIC ACID POISONING.

BY W. H. BROWN, F.R.C.S. IREL.

A FEW days ago I was asked to see, in consultation with a medical man, a child three years of age. An hour prior to my visit an attendant had been directed to clean the child's head with carbolic oil. After she had been rubbing it for three minutes she discovered that in place of carbolic oil she had used pure carbolic acid. So soon as the mistake was noticed the head was promptly washed, but within five minutes the child lost consciousness. When an hour later I saw the child it was deeply comatose, in which condition it remained for five hours, when two ounces of olive-green-coloured urine were passed. The return to consciousness was very gradual, the child having for several hours a dazed appearance. At the end of three days the urine became normal, and the albumen, of which there had been a trace, disappeared. Seeing the frequency with which carbolic acid is used, I thought it right to mention this instance of its rapid absorption by the unbroken skin.

Leeds.

CALCULUS PASSED BY THE FEMALE URETHRA.

BY J. GORDON SHARP, M.B., C.M. EDIN.,

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SUBSEQUENTLY to attacks of renal colic a woman between forty and fifty years of age passes calculi of a rich puce colour. The pigment is due to an *organic compound of iron*,

and an account of their physiological chemistry has been published by me.¹ Hitherto the stones passed have been small, with a few large ones weighing from five to six grains; but recently the woman passed a stone the length of which is $\frac{5}{8}$ in., and the circumference at the greatest part is $\frac{7}{8}$ in. The weight is exactly ten grains. Like all the others passed, this calculus is intensely hard, and it is highly polished and smooth. The wonder is that such a large stone could be passed with so little constitutional disturbance, for after she has had an attack of colic she enjoys fairly good health. For some three years the patient has, at intervals of four or five months, or occasionally longer, passed a number of stones of the character indicated, and, although none of them have been so large in circumference as the one described, still they are sufficiently large to occasion some surprise that they should have been voided with comparatively so little trouble.

Leeds.

AN UNUSUAL FORM OF HYMEN.

BY C. E. PURSLOW, M.D. LOND.,

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THE patient, aged fifty-seven, unmarried, was admitted to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, on Jan. 3rd, 1895. Menstruation had never ceased, and as the hymen would not admit the finger it was considered advisable to examine thoroughly under chloroform. When she was anæsthetised, it was seen that the hymen presented two separate, small, rounded apertures, each just admitting the uterine sound. The finger was passed forcibly, and two small polypi were found to be protruding through the cervix; these were removed. The point of interest about the case is that the hymen approached to that variety described in the text-books as cribriform, and although almost all the text-books agree in stating that such a form of hymen may be found recent investigators have denied that any such condition of hymen ever does exist.

Birmingham.

A Mirror

OF

HOSPITAL PRACTICE, BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Nulla autem est alia pro certo noscendi via, nisi quamplurimas et morborum et dissectionum historias, tum aliorum tum proprias collectas habere, et inter se comparare.—MORGAGNI *De Sed. et Caus. Morb.*, lib. iv. Proœmium.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

AN EXCEPTIONAL CASE OF EPITHELIOMA OF THE TONGUE
IN A WOMAN; REMOVAL; RECURRENCE;
DEATH IN TEN MONTHS.

(Under the care of Mr. WARRINGTON HAWARD.)

ALTHOUGH epithelioma of the tongue rarely attacks females, occasional cases such as the following remind us that they are not quite exempt from it and that it does sometimes occur in them; according to Mr. A. E. Barker this is in the proportion of 247 males to 46 females. This is probably above the average for true cancers. From the statistical reports of St. Thomas's Hospital for the years 1881–93 inclusive we learn that there were 160 cases of epithelioma of the tongue under treatment, of which number only sixteen patients were women. Cancer of any part of the body is rare at the age of this patient; it sometimes commences in the cervix uteri at even an earlier date, but is scarcely ever seen in the tongue. Gurli, who collected statistics of 11,131 cases of cancer, found that in 4769 in which the age of the patients was recorded, only 0.4 per cent. recovered under the age of twenty. We are inclined to the opinion that when epithelioma affects the tongue in women a larger proportion of the cases will be found to be under the age of thirty than obtains in the other sex. This case

¹ Journal of Anatomy and Physiology, July, 1894.