

INDEX OF SURGICAL PROGRESS.

GENERAL SURGERY.

I. The Fatal After-Action of Chloroform. By DR. OSTER-TAG. The author formulates his conclusions as follows: 1. After prolonged inhalation of chloroform, fatty degeneration of different organs, especially of the heart, liver, skeletal muscles, kidneys, and stomach occurs in animals of widely-different species. 2. The fatty degeneration is the result not only of the action on the blood, affecting the structure of the red blood-corpuscles; also a direct local action on the tissue-cells themselves. 3. Certain individuals show such great susceptibility to the action of chloroform by inhalation that they rapidly succumb to its influence. 4. The fatal after-effect of chloroform is attributable to paralysis of the heart, and it is evident by an anatomical degeneration of the myocardium, although in certain cases this may only with difficulty be detected, and to a gradual accumulation of carbon dioxide in the blood.—*Deutsche Medicinal Zeitung*, Jan. 16, 1890. *Therapeutic Gazette*, March 1890.

II. The Antiseptic Value of Zinco-Cyanide of Mercury. By Sir JOSEPH LISTER (London). At a meeting of the Medical Society of London the author reported that he had for a year been using in his wards at King's College Hospital a dressing that he recommended as the most satisfactory he had ever met. Upon repeated trial he had found a double cyanide of zinc and mercury to possess most important antiseptic properties. In the proportion of $1/5000$ it kept blood-serum perfectly free from the development of organisms for eighteen days in spite of potent septic inoculation. Dressings were prepared by diffusing this "zinco-cyanide of mercury" in water, with a little glycerin added to fix it and prevent it from dusting out. In view of the very