TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

ART. XIV.—*Summary of the Transactions of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.*

1867. June 5. *Drainage Probe*.—Dr. H. LENOX HODGE exhibited a *drainage-probe*, made of silver pure enough to be perfectly flexible, and terminating at either end by an olive-shaped bulb. Its diameter is the same as that of the ordinary surgical probe, and its length six inches. A number of different sizes would at times prove useful.

It is adapted to the same class of cases as Chassaignac's "drainage-tubes," but possesses several advantages over them. Being made of silver, its presence causes no irritation to the tissues; it is not affected by any climate; it is non-absorbent and thus keeps pure and clean. Being a solid probe, the pus or blood cannot collect and block up the passage as is done in a tube. It does not swell like lint and other vegetable structures, and thus tightly close the orifice, confining the pus. *The fluid always flows along its sides and escapes.* It is readily inserted into any opening made by the knife or occurring spontaneously, and with ease may be carried to the extremity of a sinus or abscess. When inserted, it can be retained in its place by a strip of adhesive plaster; or better, when practicable, by making a counter-opening and, after carrying the probe through, bending both of its ends. The great advantage of draining an abscess and cavities containing fluids, and the many difficulties of accomplishing this, are conceded. The employment of this drainage-probe will do much to remove them. Indeed, in certain disorders, such as strictures of the lachrymo-nasal duct, this plan has long been employed with success; the fluids have been found to pass steadily along the sides of the old "style" even in tight strictures.

The drainage-probe causes so little irritation, and is of such marked benefit, that the patient himself will at once appreciate its value. Even in mammary abscess it causes no inconvenience; pus soon ceases to be formed, milk flowing along the probe instead, and the woman continues to nurse her child.

Bromide of Potassium in the Sickness of Pregnancy.—Dr. PACKARD stated that he had employed the bromide successfully in several cases of this kind, when the sickness had been manifestly due to reflex irritation of the stomach, and in which most if not all of the other remedies in common use had failed. He believed that after the removal of any gastric disorder, if such existed, the bromide would act here just as in other cases of nervous disturbance, as, for example, in allaying neuralgia, or in producing sleep. The dose given had been the ordinary one, viz: gr. xx every three hours, until the symptoms began to yield.

The fact that the idea had seemed new to several gentlemen of experience in these matters, induced Dr. P. to bring it to the notice of the Fellows of the College.