VII. On Free Bodies in the Elbow-joint. By Prof. KOENIG, (Goettingen). In three cases of this affection the patients were aged 16, 20, 15 years respectively. They were not suffering from any general disease of the joints. Beyond a local thickening of the joint capsule no disease or arthritis deformans was present. The disturbance of function consisted in a limitation of extension. In two cases the foreign bodies could be demonstrated before operation. The bodies are found frequently in the anterior pocket of the joint on the ulnar or radial side. The symptoms which indicate joint-body are sudden pain and synovitis, painful mobility, and affection of complete extension after the disappearance of acute symptoms. In each attack the anterior aspect of the joint (elbow) is painful. Koenig prefers, in the majority of cases, to open the joint for the removal of the bodies by a longitudinal incision, 8-10 cm. to the right or left of the biceps tendon. The author contends that force may at times be exerted sufficient to cause the separation of pieces of tissue from the surface of articular ends of bones. These pieces, however, in healthy joints rarely become free bodies. The force necessary to cause such disturbance must be very great. In the elbow or knee a trauma may, by injuring the integrity of some part of the superficies of the articular extremity of the bones, cause necrotic changes, with subsequent separation of pieces of tissue which become free bodies in the joint. It must also be accepted that there is a spontaneous osteochondritis dessicans which without any special trauma may cause the separation of parts of the surface of the ends of the bones. A great many of the so-called traumatic cases must come under this category. The etiology of this pathological change is still obscure.—*Deutsche Zeitschf. Chir.*, bd. xxvii, heft 1 and 2.

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