

surgeon is justified in removing the uterus in cases of uncomplicated climacteric bleeding until atmokausis has been tried. It is also of great value in cases of interstitial fibroid in which radical operation is contraindicated.

Atmokausis is recommended in menorrhagia with subinvolution, because of its marked effect in reducing the size of the uterus.

The Action of Steam on the Uterine Mucosa.—KOSLENKO (*Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, 1901, No. 17) describes the results of his experiments on dogs. Under anaesthesia the abdomen was opened, the anterior vaginal fornix was incised, and the cervix was drawn upward so that a tube connected with a steam boiler could be inserted into it. Through an incision in one horn of the uterus a thermometer was introduced into its cavity; at the same time the opposite cornu was isolated from the uterine cavity by passing a silk ligature around it.

With a pressure of 0 atmospheres in the steam-kettle the temperature of the uterine cavity rose to 100° C. and remained at that height for five or six minutes, when it slowly declined. When the pressure was raised to two atmospheres it reached 115° C., but fell in a few seconds. Strong uterine contractions were observed. The uterine muscle after a few seconds became pale, then grayish-red, and finally gray, showing that necrosis had occurred.

In a second series of cases uteri were extirpated at various intervals after atmoknusia had been used for twenty seconds with a pressure of two atmospheres. On the first day partial destruction of the mucous membrane was observed; on the third day the necrotic areas were well defined; on the sixth the dead tissues were thrown off, and on the ninth regeneration of the endometrium had occurred.

The deeper portions of the glands were not affected, hence the rapid renewal of the mucosa. By controlling the pressure and the duration of the exposure any desired effect could be obtained, even obliteration of the uterine cavity.

Pulmonary Embolism following Myomectomy.—MICHEL (*Revue de gyn. et de chir. abdom.*, 1900, No. 4) believes that post-operative thrombosis is to be apprehended especially in the case of patients with large impacted tumors, who have been exhausted by loss of blood. Thrombosis of the pelvic veins is more dangerous than in those of the lower extremities. Persistence of rapid pulse after operation, with a low temperature, is the only symptom which might cause a suspicion of thrombosis. When this is noted the patient should be kept absolutely quiet in bed for several weeks.

Before any gynecological operation is performed a careful examination of the vascular system should be made, and if the patient has a rapid pulse, enlarged, resistant veins and oedema of the lower extremities it is wise not to operate.

Metastases in Cancer of the Cervix Uteri.—KUNZE (*Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, 1901, No. 17) reports a case of epithelioma of the cervix with metastases in the os internum and resulting pyometra. After extirpation of the uterus numerous metastases were found in the corporeal endometrium. The parametric tissues were apparently free from disease.

Retroperitoneal Pelvic Tumors.—WINTERNITZ (*Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, 1901, No. 17) describes two cases, one in which the tumor was a papillary cystoma presenting the ordinary appearance of an ovarian cyst, though no traces of follicles could be found in its wall. It was supposed to have developed from some aberrant cells, as there was no reason to infer the presence of a third ovary.

KRÖNIG (*Ibid.*) removed a subperitoneal retro-uterine tumor, leaving the uterus and both ovaries and tubes intact. It was a multilocular cystoma, which the writer inferred had developed from the remains of the Wolffian body, at first in the posterior wall of the uterus, but later being displaced into the cellular tissue of Douglas' pouch.

Ultimate Results of Vaginal Extirpation of the Cancerous Uterus.—REIPEN (*Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, 1901, No. 17) presents the statistics of the Halle clinic up to 1897; 25.14 per cent. of the patients were free from recurrence. Between 1887 and 1900 there were 303 operations with twenty deaths (6.6 per cent.). Injuries to the bladder and ureters occurred in 8.91 per cent.

Infiltration of the parametric tissues as far as the pelvic wall and also of the bladder wall were regarded as positive contraindications to operation. One-third of all the cases received at the clinic were considered as operable.

The abdominal route is condemned, since with the improved modern technique the mortality is still 20 per cent.

Surgical Treatment of Prolapsed Uterus.—CHRISTIANI (*Zeitschrift für Geb. u. Gyn.*, Band xliii., Heft 2) reports 143 cases of prolapsed uterus operated upon in the course of five years, 84 per cent. of which were kept under observation subsequently. In the majority of the cases colpo-perineorrhaphy and ventrofixation were performed. Of 83 patients thus treated 76 per cent. were permanently cured, while 87 per cent. were able to attend to their usual occupations—a result which has not been shown in any other similar series of cases.

Extension of Uterine Cancer through the Lymphatics.—PUPPEL (*Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, 1901, No. 13) publishes the result of his histological studies in this field. He found that in cancer of the portio vaginalis those lymph-spaces are first affected which run in the middle muscular layer. The disease then extends either to the vagina or through the lymphatics to the parametrium. Metastases in the body of the uterus occur late, after the broad ligaments have already been affected, also through the medium of the lymph spaces in the middle and outer muscular layers.

As a practical deduction from these observations the writer recommends that supravaginal amputation be performed in old women in cases of operable carcinoma of the portio. If the posterior lip is involved he advises extensive removal of the parametric tissues. If the disease has extended as high as the os internum total extirpation is necessary.

Sensitiveness of the Peritoneum.—LENNANDER (*Centralblatt für Chirurgie*, 1901, No. 8), as the result of a series of experiments, concludes that