

in all these cases of very rapid surgical technique, careful hemostasis, as little handling of viscera as possible, and the greatest care to avoid overtaxing the heart during the postoperative treatment.

Treatment of Purulent Peritonitis.—KRECKE (*Monats. f. Geb. u. Gyn.*, 1911, xxxiii, 473) cites the experiments of Glimm on animals with the intraperitoneal injection of camphorated oil, after which a marked diminution in the resorption of bacteria could be demonstrated; this phenomenon being explained by Glimm on the theory that the oil filled the lymph channels, and thereby hindered absorption. He also cites the use of the same substance by Pfannenstiel and Höhne as a prophylactic before abdominal section in unclean cases, and by Hirschel in the treatment of 9 severe cases of generalized peritonitis, with 5 recoveries. Krecke states that on the strength of these experiences he has used it routinely in the treatment of such cases for some time, his material now amounting to 11 cases of diffuse, purulent peritonitis, all arising from perforated appendices. Some of these cases were light, others very severe; the ages of the patients ranged from eleven months to seventy years. In former years Krecke's mortality was from 34 to 42 per cent. in similar cases, but the 11 cases treated with camphorated oil all recovered. As there was no other change in the technique whatever, Krecke believes that this rather remarkable showing must be due to the effect of the oil. His method is to remove the appendix, sponge out the pus, and then pour into the abdominal cavity 100 grams of camphorated oil, which is swabbed about with a stalked sponge. The abdomen is then closed, one cigarette drain being introduced into the pelvis. The question as to whether the oil acts by mechanically plugging the lymph vessels, or by setting up a reactionary inflammation, is left undecided.

Results Obtained by the Radical Vaginal Operation for Carcinoma Uteri.—As a result of an experience covering ten years, SCHAUTA (*Monatsschr. f. Geb. u. Gyn.*, 1911, xxxiii, 680), in an article which may be considered an answer to Wertheim's recently published monograph, gives in statistical form the results he has attained and his reasons for believing that in many cases the vaginal route is to be preferred to the abdominal for the removal of the carcinomatous uterus. During the period reviewed, 910 cases of carcinoma of the cervix presented themselves at Schauta's clinic; of these, 445 were operated upon, giving an average operability of 51.3 per cent. In 26 additional cases the operation was begun, but on account of technical difficulties, could not be completed. Of the 445 operated cases, 40 died, giving a primary mortality of 8.9 per cent. for the whole ten years; in the last three years, however, the primary mortality has been reduced to 3.7 per cent. In estimating the results with regard to lasting cures, only those cases are considered which were operated upon during the first five years; that is, those in which a period of at least five years has elapsed since operation. During this period, 447 patients presented themselves, 211 of whom were operated upon; of these, 73 remained cured after a lapse of five years, giving an "absolute percentage" of cures amounting to 16.6 per cent. of all cases that applied for treatment and to 39.7 per cent. of all cases operated upon. In reckoning this absolute percentage,

Schauta counts all cases lost sight of, and all cases that died of intercurrent disease without autopsy among the recurrences, agreeing in this with Wertheim, and giving up all complicated formule. Judged in the same way, Wertheim's absolute percentage of cures is about 1.8 per cent. higher than Schauta's, but his operability is slightly lower (48.9 per cent.), and his primary mortality very markedly higher (18.6 per cent.), so that Schauta considers that, of two operations so nearly alike in endresults, the one with the lesser mortality is to be preferred in most cases as giving the patient a better chance for increased length of life. Schauta lays emphasis on the fact that his "radical operation" does not consist merely in making the Schuchardt paravaginal incision, this signifying here no more than the incision through the abdominal walls does in an abdominal operation. The important features of his operation are the careful preparation of the ureters, the ligation of the uterine arteries, the wide excision of the parametrium out to the pelvic walls, and the formation, as one of the first steps of the operation, of a vaginal cuff to prevent all contamination of the wound with matter escaping from the cervix. He shows that injury to the ureters occurred less frequently in his series than in Wertheim's cases, and that when it does occur it can be treated as satisfactorily (by means of suture, implantation, etc.) by the vaginal as by the abdominal route.

Pruritus Vulvæ.—SCHUBERT (*Münch. med. W'och.*, 1911, lviii, 745) describes 2 cases of severe idiopathic pruritus vulvæ, in which all ordinary therapeutic measures had failed, which were cured by the injection into the sacral canal epidurally of 1.5 c.c. of a solution consisting of cocaine hydrochlorate, 0.1 c.c.; beta-eucaine, 0.1 c.c.; sodium chloride, 0.4 c.c.; distilled water, 200 c.c. In the first of these cases a like quantity of the same solution was injected into the region of the tuber ischii where the pudic nerve, which supplies the vulva and vestibule, comes to the surface. In both cases the cure was complete and apparently lasting. In 2 cases of severe sacral pain, in which no genital condition could be found to account for the symptoms, Schubert was able to attain a cure in 1 case and a marked improvement in the other by the same method. He reports, moreover, that in 25 other cases of pruritus or sacral pain treated in this way he has had most satisfactory results, especially in the pruritus cases. He believes that the factor of suggestion can be altogether excluded, as in almost all instances all possible therapeutic measures had been tried, but without avail, and is therefore convinced that the effect is due to a direct action on the roots of the pudic nerve.

Operation of "Utriculoplasty" for Uterine Hemorrhage.—BONNEY (*Lancet*, 1911, clxxx, 1266) reports six cases of hemorrhage due to the condition commonly spoken of as "hemorrhagic" or "fibroid" metritis, in which, instead of doing a hysterectomy, he performed Kelly's operation of merely excising a wedge-shaped portion of the fundus uteri having its base upward and its apex near the internal os. In most of these cases sufficient mucous membrane was left on each side to maintain the communication between the uterine cavity and the tubes. Hemorrhage from the uterine walls was controlled by the sutures bringing them together. One of the cases was a woman, aged

twenty-nine years, who had been bleeding for months and was extremely anemic; she was entirely cured of the excessive hemorrhage, and subsequently became pregnant and went to term, being delivered of a healthy child. This pregnancy occurred within four months after the operation, that is, before the uterine scar could have become consolidated, and yet no ill effects followed. Bonney believes that the risk of this operation is certainly not greater than that of hysterectomy; that the uterine wall in these cases is not itself necessarily very abnormal, and that, therefore, it is not contraindicated to leave a portion of it behind; that the operation is a legitimate alternative to hysterectomy, and is certainly to be preferred in the case of young women anxious to have children.

DERMATOLOGY

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Starch Paste as a Vehicle in the Treatment of Scabies.—YAMADA (*Dermat. Ztschr.*, 1910, xvii, Heft 4), in the treatment of scabies, employs a paste made of rice flour containing 30 per cent. of sulphur. This rice paste is prepared by mixing 40 to 45 grams of rice meal with $\frac{1}{2}$ liter of water and, in order to prevent fermentation, 2.5 grams of salicylic acid or 5 grams of benzoic acid. This paste of rice and sulphur is employed in the same manner as the ointments commonly used, being rubbed in once a day for two to five days, the patient neither bathing nor changing his underwear during this time. The author has treated 44 cases in this manner, and has never seen relapses; and the duration of the treatment was in most cases shorter than with the usual methods.

Hot Air in Dermatological Therapeutics.—RAVAUT (*Annales. d. dermat. et de. syphil.*, 1910, No. 3) reports the results which he has obtained in various affections of the skin treated by hot air. He employed the apparatus constructed by Gailfe, in which air heated by an electric current to a temperature varying from 60° to 80° C. is projected through variously sized and shaped tips upon the skin. The hot air thus obtained is employed for various purposes: At a temperature not exceeding 80° an active hyperemia of the parts treated is produced; at an elevated temperature cauterization and carbonization of the tissues to a varying depth results. As complete immobility of the patient is necessary to obtain the best results, and as the pain is considerable, the author advises general anesthesia. Nevus, lupus, cutaneous tuberculosis, epithelioma, and leukoplakia are some of the more important affections in which this method of treatment was employed with more or