

Having found by experiment and observation¹ that even the largest blood vessels may be safely sealed by the Paquelin in that instant when they are severed by the same, Mackenrodt went a step farther and said "all hemorrhage must be checked by the charring cautery," and that clamps used during the operation to protect the surrounding tissue may be removed directly the operation is finished. The possibility of closing the uterine and spermatic he adds, however, is only present after a provisory application of suitable clamps (wing-jawed like the Langenbeck hemorrhoid clamp, shovel-shaped and curved on the flat), with which the stump to be treated may be emptied of blood and charred, without injury to the urethra, rectum or bladder.

The vaginal igni-extirpation after Mackenrodt is made as follows: After thorough cleansing of the vagina, curettement and cauterization of the exposed carcinomatous foci, the field of operation is disinfected with alcohol and sublimate. If the vulva is small a lateral incision is made with the cautery into the perineum. The portio is then seized with strong double tenacula, drawn downward and forward, and with the Paquelin the posterior vaginal wall is separated from the collum, and the cavum Douglasii opened. The vaginal wall is next burned off laterally, and lastly anteriorly from the uterus.

The connective tissue between the bladder and the uterus and ligamenta lata is now put upon the stretch by the thumb of the left hand pressing against the anterior vaginal wall. In dividing these connections the Paquelin is drawn from left to right in repeated strokes, the tissues giving way in the direction of least resistance, exposing the anterior aspect of the uterus and broad ligaments. The shovel-shaped clamps are now applied to the broad ligaments, their concavity toward the uterus. The stumps on each side are successively burned through and charred to the surface of the clamps. The clamps are removed and the remaining connections between the bladder and uterus are divided in the manner described above. The peritoneal cavity having been opened anteriorly, the left index finger is passed through the opening, over the crest of the right broad ligament, and a clamp is reintroduced and made to embrace the remaining peritoneal portion of the stump. The latter is then divided with the cautery. Lastly, the clamp is applied to the left ligamentum latum, the stump divided and the uterus removed. Iodoform gauze is placed in the peritoneal opening to prevent the decensus of intestines and the perineal incision is sutured up.

Mackenrodt is a warm advocate of Battey's colpotomy posterior. He practices the operation himself and has done much to bring it into new favor. He prefers the posterior to the anterior vaginal section, because of the former's simplicity and safety of principle.

During the last few months he has removed all uteri demanding radical operation for other conditions than malignant neoplasms and large fibroids by enucleation. In the majority of cases he is able to accomplish this without the use of a single ligature. Occasionally, however, he ligates the ovarian artery. The technique is the simplest possible. He seizes the portio with a double tenaculum, and with a pair of short curved scissors makes an annular incision through

the vaginal vault at the utero-vaginal junction. He proceeds upward, clipping with the scissors in the endopelvic fascia, until the uterus is freed.

Delaware and Vermont Streets.

LEPROSY OVERCOME BY ISOLATION IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

BY ALBERT S. ASHMEAD, M.D.

NEW YORK.

In the Middle Ages leprosy spread in every country of Europe and continued to spread until strenuous efforts were made to bring the diseased parts out of contact with the healthy community. In this no charitable regard was had to the victims of the scourge; the weal of the sane majority alone was considered. It is from this point of view that it behooves us also to judge the conduct of the church. The Order of Lazarus was founded and lazarettoes built in great numbers. The work and purpose of the order were to segregate and govern the afflicted and dangerous part of humanity. The thing was necessary, was an unavoidable consequence of the resolve of healthy mankind to remain so, and it was not so much charity as one might believe. The community wanted this work to be done, and who could do it but the church?

But, according to Dr. Ehlers, Secretary-General of the Berlin Leprosy Conference, the church might have been spared these worries and these dangers, for isolation is not necessary, as these Middle Age people believed, who, through isolation, were fortunate enough finally to overcome the disease.

It is not certain that the growth of civilization since the Middle Ages has rendered the spread of leprosy impossible. We cheerfully admit that it can not overwhelm people who are clean in their habits, well separated in their families, careful of their bedding, living in sufficient remoteness from the inferior animals, etc., as it did our ancestors of the Middle Ages, whose life was so very different. Yet some danger still exists, and the spread of leprosy in various parts of Europe, and in parts which I venture to say are cleaner than the leprosy centers of Norway and Iceland, proves that the disease has not lost, under any circumstances, its vital stamina; it seems to stir itself with remarkable vigor, and to be able to take advantage of any elbow room left to it.

If enforced isolation and a permanent committee of official delegates do not come out of the Congress of Berlin—and Dr. Ehlers does not want them to—that Congress will have been held for nothing, or at least only *ad majorem Ehlerii gloriam*.

SURGERY ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

AN HISTORICAL STUDY

BY DR. GEORGE FISCHER.

DEDICATED TO THE GERMAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

TRANSLATED FOR THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
BY CARL H. VON KLEIN, A.M., M.D.

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XIII.—GERMAN MEDICINE.

Albert von Haller (1708–1777) shone above all others. Born for science, at the age of 8 years he applied himself to Greek and Hebrew dictionaries, outlined a Chaldean grammar and collected the biographies of several thousand celebrated men. While a

¹ After castration of stallions, hemorrhage from the spermatic artery may be checked without ligature, by the application of a red hot iron.