

the ages of ten and thirty. 12. Constipation does not seem to have any influence on the frequency of appendicitis. 13. The position of the appendix is nearly always abnormal. 14. Often the base of the appendix has been found widened like a funnel. 15. Flexions, strictures, and adhesions are predisposing causes of appendicitis by foreign bodies. 16. Heredity plays an important rôle, although unexplainable, in appendicitis.

THE CURE OF SPLENIC FEVER BY ERYSIPELAS SERUM, AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE ETIOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF CARCINOMA AND OTHER MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.

EMMERICH (*Centralblatt für Chirurgie*, 1894, No. 45) calls attention again to the fact which he had previously demonstrated, and which has been confirmed by Pawlowsky, that malignant pustule in rabbits could be cured by subcutaneous injections of the cocci of erysipelas. This result, it is claimed, is attained by chemical changes in the blood, brought about by the streptococci, which destroy the bacilli of splenic fever.

Emmerich has since succeeded in obtaining the same result by injecting erysipelas serum from which the cocci have been separated by filtration. The cure was more rapid and more certain if the serum was obtained from other animals than the rabbit, the sheep being one of the best. The number of investigations so far made is not large. The author supposes the cure is effected by a combination of a protein substance which results from the death of the streptococci in the blood and the combination of this with the albuminoid portion of the blood. He hopes that the cure will succeed also in man, in whom the disease is less violent. In tuberculosis in the rabbit this disease has been brought to a standstill, but has not been cured. Emmerich hopes that clinicians will make trials of the effect of the erysipelas serum in other diseases. One case is mentioned as having developed erysipelas from the treatment.

STERILIZATION OF CATGUT BY HEAT.

SCHÜLLER advises the following process for the sterilization of catgut (*Ärztlichen Praktiker*, 1894, No. 30): Take good, dry catgut in loose coils, place in a wide-mouthed glass vessel, cover with oil of lavender, and heat to a temperature of 110° for half an hour in a steam sterilizer. The catgut may be used directly from this oil, or from an antiseptic watery solution.

THE DISINFECTION OF KNIVES FOR OPERATIONS.

IHLE (*v. Langenbeck's Archiv*, Bd. xlviii., Heft 4) advises the boiling of knives, which he thinks has been too largely abandoned on account of their becoming dull. This he claims is frequently due to contact with other instruments or with the vessel. Ihle states that even prolonged boiling in soda solution does not destroy the edge. The soda solution must be at least of nine per cent. The edge of the knives should be protected while boiling. The proper proportion of soda will be obtained by adding one tablespoonful of powdered soda or three tablespoonfuls of the crystals to a litre of water.

TRACHEOTOMY IN DIPHTHERIA.

FISCHER (*Deutsche Zeitschrift für Chirurgie*, xxxix. Band, 3 u. 4 Heft), from a study of 1000 cases of diphtheria in which tracheotomy was performed, gives the following deductions:

a. In the city of Hanover when there was no epidemic of diphtheria or scarlet fever, 41 per cent. of the children operated on were cured.

b. There were more boys operated upon than girls; the prognosis was better in the former.

c. The majority of the children operated upon were in the second and third year, the numbers being fewer with each additional year of life. On the contrary, the prospect of cure increased from the second to the eighth year.

d. Eighty-eight per cent. of the children were admitted to the hospital with signs of suffocation, so that the operation was demanded immediately or within one day.

e. In the fatal cases death occurred most frequently on the second and third day after tracheotomy.

f. The cure was generally complete in from two to four weeks after tracheotomy.

g. Laryngo-pharyngeal diphtheria was more frequent than the laryngeal form, and gave also a less favorable prognosis.

h. Diphtheria increased in the fall, and again in the winter months, decreasing again in spring and summer.

i. The average stay in the hospital of cases cured by tracheotomy was twenty-nine days.

k. Children from the village operated upon gave better results than those from the city.

l. Of the children not operated upon, (510) 67 per cent. were cured.

m. The average period of treatment needed by children with diphtheria was 12.7 days.

The total cost of 1510 children with diphtheria was 48,412 marks.

DISEASES OF THE LARYNX AND CONTIGUOUS STRUCTURES.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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SIMPLE ACUTE THYROIDITIS.

An excellent paper upon this subject, with an extended bibliography, was read by DR. HOLGER MYGIND before the Copenhagen Medical Society. November 6, 1894 (*Journal of Laryngology, Rhinology, and Otology*, No. 3, 1895). By simple acute thyroiditis the author means inflammation which terminates in resolution and not in abscess. It is quite a rare disease, and