

*Necropsy:* The right lung was completely adherent; near its lower half a pouch was opened from which a quantity of clear fluid was ejected, followed immediately by the extrusion of a hydatid cyst the size of a foetal head at full term. After this came a number of small, tense cysts of various sizes. The cyst was situated between the diaphragmatic and pulmonary pleura. The lung was pushed upward and compressed; the liver was depressed. The cyst-wall was laminated. No hooklets nor echinococci were found.

Reference is made to the rarity of hydatid disease in Ireland, and to the great rarity of primary hydatid cysts of the pleura.

## SURGERY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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### THE CLOSING OF TREPHINE OPENINGS BY CELLULOID PLATES.

A case was presented before the Vienna Medical Society by HINTERS-LOISSER (*Wiener med. Presse*, No. 42, xxxi. Jahrg.), showing the successful result of an effort to close a trephine opening by a celluloid plate. The patient some months after recovery from a comminuted fracture of the left parietal bone, suffered from giddiness, weakness, lost of power in the right side of the body, and chronic twitchings of the right facial region and the corresponding upper extremity. Three years later epilepsy developed. Examination showed a hyperæsthetic depressed cicatrix corresponding to the position of the upper portion of the ascending parietal convolution. There was also bilateral concentric narrowing of the field of vision, diplopia on looking to the left, and sensory and motor paresis of the left side. The cicatrix was excised, a periosteal flap was raised, the depressed bone was removed and the healthy non-adherent dura was incised, showing normal brain cortex. The dura was sutured. On the fourth day it was found united. A polished celluloid plate was now fitted over the trephine opening, the periosteum was stitched over this, and finally the skin wound was sutured. Healing was prompt and all brain symptoms ceased.

According to Fillerbaum, celluloid was successfully used in a similar manner in two other cases of trephining.

### OSTEO-DERMOPLASTIC AMPUTATION OF THE FOOT.

The purpose of this operation is to procure sufficient flap to cover leg ulcers so obdurate and extensive that amputation seems the only resort.

SCHINZINGER and BOGDANIK (*Wiener med. Presse*, No. 42, xxxi. Jahrg.) each report a case.

Bogdanik made a cut along the middle of the dorsal aspect of the foot, stripped off the skin and superficial fascia down to the nails, enucleated the foot at Chopart's joint, sawed off a part of the astragalus and os calcis, and stretched the redundant skin flap in such a position that the ulcer was covered almost completely. In this last case the result was not entirely satisfactory, as a portion of the flap sloughed and the subsequent cicatrization was exceedingly slow.

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#### NITRATE OF SILVER IN THE SURGERY OF THE BLADDER AND URETHRA.

Nitrate of silver is commended by GUYON (*Le Mercredi Médical*, xi. an., No. 7) not only because in chronic inflammatory conditions of the bladder and urethra it develops a curative irritation, but because it is *par excellence* the best antiseptic which can be applied to the urinary tract. Clinical observation and laboratory research have alike proven that the silver salts attack and destroy the microorganisms which are found in altered urine. These salts are particularly efficacious in destroying or preventing the development of the pyogenic bacteria and the urobacillus liquefaciens, the pathogenic action of which has been most thoroughly studied out.

Employed as an antiseptic, nitrate of silver is prompt and often radical in its effects upon vesical suppuration. Some cases are merely benefited, others experience no relief. To the latter category belong long-standing inflammation of the bladder, so deeply seated that the drug is unable to reach the focus of trouble. Such cases may possibly be helped by a thorough curetting followed by the application of the drug. Solutions for injection into the bladder may be 1 : 500 to 1 : 300, or even 1 : 100; the strength last given should be employed only in exceptional circumstances. These solutions may be fairly considered the best hæmostatic application to vesical bleedings, particularly such as are dependent on subacute blennorrhagic inflammation. When the hæmorrhage depends upon a tubercular ulcer or a neoplasm the nitrate of silver injections do not yield satisfactory results.

In chronic urethritis nitrate of silver is constantly employed in Guyon's practice. The solutions vary in strength from 1 : 100 to 1 : 200.

Silver nitrate should also be employed to prevent infection from instrumentation in cases peculiarly prone to such infection—as, for example, in cases of long-standing vesical distention. The drug properly employed is able not merely to prevent such infection, but may arrest it after it has taken place.

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#### GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE ABDOMEN.

Another case is added to the long list of gunshot wounds of the abdomen by MILES (*New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, vol. xviii., No. 9.)

The wound was self-inflicted by a 32-calibre pistol, the missile entering in the median line of the abdomen at a point midway between the umbilicus and the pubes. The patient had eaten sparingly for several days preceding the infliction of the injury. Within half an hour he was placed upon the operating-table. His pulse was 108; shock was but slightly marked, and the