

the last 175 operations he has been able to reduce the primary mortality to 9 per cent. The raising of the operability, the permanent falling of the mortality, and the increasing in the operative technique allow him to hope that he will be able to report much better results in the next years, when his present cases have passed the five-year limit.

THERAPEUTICS

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Syphilitic Disease of the Aorta.—DENEKE (*Deutsch. med. Woch.*, 1913, xxxix, 441) believes mercury is a more reliable remedy for the treatment of syphilitic aortitis than salvarsan or neosalvarsan. He advises giving a combination of mercury and iodide when the Wassermann reaction is positive and iodide alone when the reaction is negative. He says that salvarsan should not be given to patients with serious aortitis and great caution is necessary when giving it to patients with the milder forms of aortic disease. He gives salvarsan only in small doses from 0.2 to 0.4 gram, and always with mercury or the iodides. The guide as to the length of treatment is the Wassermann reaction, and this should become permanently negative before treatment is discontinued. This result may never be obtained, but the treatment should be persistent. Temporary improvement often follows antisyphilitic treatment in cases of aortic disease, but permanent results depend upon the thoroughness of the treatment.

Action of Benzol on Leukemia.—KLEIN (*Wien. klin. Woch.*, 1913, xxiv, 357) has treated 22 cases of leukemia with benzol in the past six months. The details of 12 cases are given in the article. He gave the benzol mixed with olive oil either in milk or in a capsule. His average dose was less than 4 grams a day, and he thinks that the results were equally as good as with higher dosage. Doses as high as 5 grams a day were given in a few cases, and it seemed that these higher doses had an injurious action on the red-blood corpuscles. He also injected the benzol subcutaneously in dosage of 1.5 grams once a day, mixed with an equal amount of olive oil. None of his patient showed any signs of irritation on the part of the kidneys. His results were not so uniformly favorable as those reported by Kiralyfi, Koranyi, and others, but he thinks that benzol is a decided aid in the treatment of leukemia. The best results were obtained when the benzol treatment had been preceded by a course of x-ray treatment. He advocates the combination of these treatments in all cases of leukemia, especially for those with a very high leukocyte count. No difference in the effect was noted in the various forms of leukemia.