



no special effort was made to keep the wound aseptic, and that, as a rule, they healed rapidly in the deeper portions, but a small subcutaneous cavity was almost invariably found containing serum, muco-purulent fluid, or pus as the case might be. Occasionally a small fistula led down to the ligature, and in a few considerable suppuration took place.

Now, in the last two sets of cases always, and in the first at least very often, we are dealing with infected wounds, in which an inflammatory process, very different from mere repair, is going on, an inflammatory process which could very well account for the abundant ensheathing callus, and the extent to which the vessel wall was softened and replaced by connective tissue. It seems to us to impair seriously the value of Dr. Warren's conclusions, at least as applied to cases where no infection occurs, that some pains were not taken to avoid suppuration, or at least the presence or absence of infection noted. That in most cases suppuration did not occur around the ligature, which was generally encapsuled in the callus, will not alter matters greatly for those who have noticed the extent to which bacteria often infiltrate surrounding tissues without necessarily causing them to break down. Smooth, muscular tissue is not always easily distinguished, and the non-participation of the muscle cells in the cicatrization has been maintained by so many excellent authorities with such "singular unanimity," as Dr. Warren himself says, that one is tempted to think that there may be good grounds for such a consensus of opinion.

R. J. H.

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THE NATIONAL DISPENSATORY: CONTAINING THE NATURAL HISTORY, CHEMISTRY, PHARMACY, ACTIONS, AND USES OF MEDICINES. By ALFRED STILLÉ, M.D., LL.D., Professor Emeritus of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, and JOHN M. MAISCH, Ph.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Botany in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Ninth edition, revised and improved. Imperial 8vo. pp. xv. 1781. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's Son & Co., 1886.

THE National Dispensatory is so well and favorably known on both sides of the Atlantic that scarcely anything is left to the reviewer except to call attention to the fact that another edition of this valuable work has made its appearance.

This last edition surpasses even its predecessors in thoroughness and accuracy. The fact that in 1884, when the third edition was published, no revision of the British Pharmacopœia had been made for seventeen years has necessitated a thorough going over of the whole work in order that the references might correspond to the last revision of the work of our British cousins. In addition to these changes is a fairly full *résumé*, in the form of addenda, of the more important drugs which have come into general use in the last two or three years, chief among which may be mentioned antipyrin and cocaine hydrochlorate.

Professor Stillé finds an opportunity, under the headings of antipyrin and thallin, to attack once more the use of antipyretics on general principles, and the whole tone of the article on these two drugs, as well as the references alluded to, is decidedly adverse. While it cannot be

doubted that in certain cases antipyrin has produced untoward symptoms and even death, it is also a fact that considering the widespread use of this remedy comparatively few disagreeable effects have been noted.

As to the attack on antipyretics in general it can only be said, with all deference to the opinions of Dr. Stillé, that his statements are arrayed against the opinion of the profession in general in this respect, and that the daily clinical experience of an exceedingly large body of able men still leads them to the use of such drugs.

By far the fullest article on these newer remedies is devoted to cocaine. In the space of eight pages the derivation, history, and medicinal properties of this valuable remedy are quite thoroughly considered, and the drug is spoken of as "a precious discovery." The new basis for ointments, lanolin, receives favorable notice, while menthol and urethan also come in for their share of attention. H. A. H.

DE L'INTERVENTION CHIRURGOICALE DANS LES AFFECTIONS DU REIN.

Par AZARIE BRODEUR, M.D., Professeur à l'Université Laval à Montréal; etc. Avec cinq planches en chromolithographie et neuf figures intercalées dans le texte. 8vo. pp. 576. Paris: G. Masson, 1886.

SURGICAL INTERVENTION IN RENAL AFFECTIONS. By AZARIE BRODEUR, M.D., etc.

To anyone interested in the surgical affections of the kidney and the operations performed for their relief, this attractive-looking volume, which appears to be based upon a thesis for the doctorate, holds forth, on superficial examination, the promise of a rich intellectual treat. A careful study of its contents, however, shows that the subjects embraced in its pages have, as a rule, been imperfectly discussed, and that it should include conclusions drawn from an analysis of upward of five hundred operations that had been recorded up to the time of its appearance, instead of three hundred and twenty-seven cases collated by the author, many of which are incorrect and evidently quoted without consulting the original authority.

The operations for calculous affections are hopelessly mixed. In a table of twenty-five nephrolithotomies are included seven cases which are not illustrations of that procedure at all; while nephrotomy and nephrolithotomy are used as convertible terms for the removal of stones from pyelonephritic kidneys. In his table of forty-four nephrectomies for calculus associated with suppurative lesions, thirteen operations are recorded in which a stone was not present; while his table of nephrotomies for suppurating kidney embraces only fourteen cases, when in point of fact he ought to have collated more than ninety cases. In addition to these serious defects and omissions, he discusses the various operative procedures in four pages, so that this portion of the work is practically valueless.

In concluding this brief notice of a work that has no *raison d'être*, we take pleasure in stating that it has one redeeming feature, namely, the indications for and against surgical intervention are fairly stated, and agree, in the main, with the conclusions reached by recent writers and