

severe maniacal condition 72 hours afterwards. In this case the operation was an easy one, the tumor was not large, though deeply placed and there was but little manipulation of the gland, the smaller lobe being left *in situ*, as has been my custom. I confess that this case has been a complete puzzle to me. The other two cases were females with the disease altogether too far advanced for operation. On neither of them, with my present experience, would I now operate. One of them died in an asylum three and a half months after the operation. There was a rapid recrudescence of the growth in the remaining lobe and she died of exhaustion. The other case died six hours after the operation of heart failure. Now, although thirteen cases of Graves's disease is but a small number from which to make deductions, yet the fact that 77 per cent. of them were cured has quite decided for me the question of the advisability of operation in these cases. The all important points are for the physician to make his diagnosis early, put the patient to bed and make his surroundings such that he will be in a condition of absolute rest, physical and mental. As for medicines, in addition to maintaining strictly the nutrition and functions of the body, I have used phosphate of sodium grs. V. t. i. d. with apparent benefit. Theoretically phosphorus in some form is indicated. Under such treatment some will be cured, others will improve up to a certain point, and the wise physician will soon see when his patient has reached that point and will hand him over to the surgeon long before the disease has advanced to such a stage as will render an operation useless. I believe that every case of Graves's disease, when seen early enough, should be submitted to this rest treatment for two or three weeks before operation.

The operation carried out on my cases, as a rule, has been the removal of the larger lobe and the isthmus, though in two cases when both lobes were equally enlarged, I removed the whole gland with the exception of a small portion of one lobe.

I have had no experience in other methods of operating for Graves's disease, such as ligating the thyroid vessels or sympathectomy. As to the former, if the thyroid veins were included in the ligature, one would expect an immediate increased absorption of the glandular secretion through the lymphatics, and a consequent exaggeration of the symptoms. Again, ligature of the vessels would expose the patient to the dangers of gangrene; and besides, the deliberate exposure and ligaturing of the thyroid vessels would be quite as serious an operation as thyroidectomy itself. As for sympathectomy, I cannot see