

atropine is useful, and in cases of peripheral vasomotor paralysis digitalis is also useful, but its use must be at once stopped if there is any acceleration of the pulse. It is, I believe, of universal experience that, compared to the foregoing drugs, alcohol is not worth mentioning, and as it has very definite depressant after-effects, I think its use is to be avoided. A small quantity of strong coffee gives all the psychic stimulation of alcohol without its depressant effects; and even if it be vomited within a few minutes, benefit results.

3. *Body Temperature.*—In a large majority of cases the body temperature is somewhat lowered, but in certain instances, notably in children, one of the shock effects of operation is the losing of heat control and consequently the temperature, instead of falling, rises from the moment the patient is returned to bed. This rise may in a child become hyperpyretically dangerous, but can, of course, be, as a rule, like all neurotic pyrexia, controlled by cold sponging the upper limbs.

In leaving the question of shock I desire to once more assert that the main principle of operating on the central nervous system should be the avoidance and prevention of all conditions which lead to shock—namely, cooling and mechanical disturbance of the central nervous system. In respect of the necessity of producing less disturbance or chance of pressure upon the brain beneath, Mr. Spencer found in my laboratory that even slight pressure on the surface of the hemisphere materially affects, in accordance with the principles of Duret, the activity and regular function of the respiratory centre. So, too, in the second stage all the necessary instrumental procedures must be effected with as little pressure upon the brain and nerve tissues as possible. Sponging, for instance, should be avoided unless absolutely requisite; and, indeed, the practice of hot irrigation renders it very unnecessary. In particular, during the separation and extraction of an encapsulated tumour—such as a large fibroma every attempt ought to be made to exert a leverage or traction, so that the direction of the force is always outwards.

These principles underlying the avoidance of shock having been fully discussed, we may turn to the question of septic infection.

ON SEPSIS.

So far I have said nothing about the second possible cause of death, namely, septic infection. Few things are more interesting in a review of general surgery as compared to the special branches of the subject than to see how essentially different in varying conditions is the incidence of sepsis. It had always been recognized, and long before Lord Lister's immortal discovery of antiseptics explained why, that the cavities