

ability of its being the exciting cause of the perforation. The writer believes this disease to be of more frequent occurrence than the literature upon it would suggest, and regards it as a possibility the profession must consider when examining an intra-abdominal condition.

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MEDICINE

UNDER THE CHARGE OF F. G. FINLEY, H. A. LAFLEUR AND W. F. HAMILTON.

VARIOUS AUTHORS. "Exophthalmic Goitre." *Jour. of the Am. Med. Assoc.*, Vol. 49, Nos. 14 and 15.

At the joint session of the various sections of the American Medical Association, held at Atlantic City, June, 1907, five very instructive papers on the physiology, pathology, diagnosis, surgical and medical treatment of Exophthalmic Goitre were read. These papers have recently appeared in the *Journal of the Amer. Med. Assoc.* (Nos. 14 and 15, Vol. 49). S. P. Beebe of New York spoke upon the physiology of the thyroid gland, and while admitting that our knowledge of the thyroid function is largely empirical he shares in the belief that the thyroid is a true gland and should be included in the list of vital viscera. Complete removal of the thyroid and parathyroid glands causes in most mammals a more or less sudden death preceded by general tetanic symptoms. Further, innumerable observers, including the author, have in the last ten years shown that the thyroid and parathyroid glands differ from one another histologically and functionally; thus, removal of the former is followed by a cachexia, and of the latter by a rapidly developing tetany and death in a few hours or few days. Further, while the parathyroid globulin when introduced into a tetanized animal has failed to relieve the symptoms, the thyroid globulin-iodin group seems to be the particularly active proteid. Thyroid feeding stimulates the nitrogenous metabolism. Reid Hunt has shown experimentally the detoxicating action of the thyroid. Blum believes there arises in the course of metabolism a toxic globulin which is detoxicated by the chemical addition of iodine in the thyroid, and further, exophthalmic goitre is caused by the escape into the circulation of large quantities of a partially iodized proteid; whereas Roos has shown that when glands from animals fed with large quantities of potassium iodide are tested physiologically they show an activity proportional to their iodine content.

Normally the thyroid gland contains three proteids—relatively little nucleoproteid, much globulin, and a smaller amount of albumin; the parathyroids, on the other hand, contain a large amount of nucleoproteid,