

the flow of urine, though there is often no effect. This, again, is probably due to rise of blood pressure, and is related to the polyuria following puncture of the fourth ventricle. Walravens thus concludes that the vagus exercises no secretory influence on the kidneys.—*British Medical Journal*.

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THE BEST METHOD OF CLOSING THE ABDOMEN.—Dr. Bantock, of London, opened this discussion with an elaborate paper of which the following were the conclusions: 1. Bacteria do not play any part in the production of suppuration, but are the result and not the cause of the conditions under which they are found. Hence abscess in the wound or in the track of the sutures is not due to the entrance of "germs" or fully formed bacilli, but in the former case to the presence of matter acting the part of a foreign body, and in the latter to strangulation of the tissues by too tight constriction by the suture. 2. In ordinary cases the simple interrupted suture alone is sufficient for all practical purposes. 3. In very thin or very fat subjects it is desirable to close the peritonæum separately by continuous suture, while the remainder of the wound may be closed in one or two stages. 4. For the simple interrupted suture silkworm gut forms the best material, while for the buried suture catgut not chromicized will probably be found preferable.—*Medical Record*.

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THE OVARY AS A DRUG.—A writer in the *Gazette Medicale de Paris* for August 15th says that the success obtained by thyroid medication induced M. M. R. Mond (*Deutsche Medicinische Wochenschrift*, April 7th) to try the administration of ovarian substance in troubles due to functional inadequacy or extirpation of the ovaries. He employed tablets prepared by Merck from the cow's ovaries; they contained equal parts of salt and of ovarian substance. There are three kinds of tablets: 1. Those made from the ovarian substance. 2. Those made from the cortical substance. 3. Those made from a substance which is precipitated at the expense of the contents of the follicles. Up to the present time the experiments have been made with the first and the third only. Cases of total or partial extirpation of the annexa, cases of amenorrhœa with atrophy of the genital organs, and a case of rudimentary uterus with defective development of the ovaries were treated with "ovarine." The amount given was from four to six tablets a day, each containing eight grains. In eight out of eleven cases amelioration or disappearance of the pains was obtained. It is not possible, says the writer, to pronounce a definitive judgment on this mode of treatment, but we may hope to draw some profit from it.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*