

THE BEST METHOD OF INTESTINAL ANASTOMOSIS.

J. H. Barbat, in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of July 15, 1899, gives an experimental study of the results of different methods of intestinal anastomosis made in dogs. Circular enterorrhaphy, he thinks, should always be the operation of election in restoring the continuity of the intestine, as it is the only method which restores the bowel to its natural condition, and it is the operation which should always be selected when no contraindication exists. His experimental work shows it is possible to make a safe and satisfactory end-to-end anastomosis. With practice a surgeon can, with nothing but a needle and thread, sew a divided bowel together and obtain a result which will almost equal that obtained by the use of the Murphy button. The button is superior to any suture method yet devised. The Murphy button and Frank coupler give the same anatomic result, but the button is safer than the coupler. Contraction following end-to-end anastomosis is usually due to faulty technique. A perfect Murphy button, properly introduced, is the quickest, safest and most reliable means of uniting the severed intestine.—*Medicine.*

A NEW RECTAL DRESSING.

J. R. Remington, in the *Chicago Medical Recorder* for July, 1899, speaks of the necessity of careful attention to the dressing and after-treatment in surgery of the rectum. Much of the pain and swelling which follow the application of a ligature or the cautery can be prevented by the use of properly constructed rectal tampons. If these are made of simple gauze or cotton, the pain attending their removal is considerable, the tender granulations are broken off, and there is considerable hemorrhage. They retard the healing and favor the absorption of septic material. The tampon devised by the writer consists of a central rubber tube three-fourths of an inch in diameter and four and one-half inches long. Covering and attached to this are layers of gauze and cotton sufficient to furnish a tampon of the desired size. The whole is then covered by sterilized sheet rubber. The advantages which he claims for such a tampon are that there is no pain on its removal, and that it leaves the wound in a condition which makes defecation practically painless.—*Medicine.*