

the cord, divides it between two catgut ligatures, twists the proximal portion until distinct resistance is felt, and transfixes it with two silk sutures passing through both pillars and walls of the canal. These are brought through the skin an inch from the incision on either side, and tied "button fashion," over a leaden plate. He thinks the sutures serve a merely temporary purpose, and should be introduced loosely, and objects strongly to the permanent metal sutures. He is convinced that the after application of the lightest truss, fitted with a pad, is hurtful, and uses a linen dressing known in Dublin as "Harrison's truss."

Mr. Barker clears the neck of the sac close to the external ring, surrounds it with a silk ligature, opens it longitudinally, to see that it is free from gut or omentum, ties it tightly, leaving long ends to the ligature, and cuts it away, allowing the lower portion to take care of itself. One of the ligature ends is then threaded in a needle, which is carried up the inguinal canal, forced through one border of the internal ring, and out through the external oblique muscle, the other end is put through the opposite border, when the two are tied, drawing the stump of the sac into the internal ring and closing it. The walls of the canal are then closed by four to seven ligatures; the ends are cut short. The skin wound is then stitched. No drainage is used. The use of trusses is avoided.

Mr. Franks closes the internal ring with silver sutures, two or three in number, transfixing the sac and excising it below them; he also closes the external ring. He leaves the sutures *in situ*, and believes their retention "materially fortifies the parts." He thinks a truss rarely necessary, and uses a cotton wool pad held in place by a bandage.

Mr. Mayo Robson ligatures and excises the sac and draws the pillars together with silver sutures.

Other gentlemen reported cases, and Mr. Puzey called attention to the need of prolonged rest after these operations. The aggregate number of cases operated upon, including those in which strangulation was present, was about 450; the deaths from the operation were very few; but the total percentage on the whole number of operations cannot be calculated, as exact figures were not given in each case. The mortality was, however, beyond doubt very trifling, as taking, for example, the cases of Macewen, Barker, Ball, and Franks, we have an aggregate of 168 cases without a single death. Only 10 deaths are mentioned out of the whole number, and of these 2 were from bronchitis.—*Am. Jour., Med. Sciences.*

ALL women are kleptomaniac to a certain extent; they will hook dresses.

ON THE USE OF STRYCHNINE AS A HYPNOTIC.

Quiet sleep usually comes readily and quickly to any healthy person who is tired, but not overtired, with bodily or mental work. But as too many know, there is a condition of excessive fatigue, either bodily or mental, and more especially of that fatigue which follows intense mental strain or worry, which prevents the unhappy sufferer from obtaining the rest and refreshment of sleep of which he stands so greatly in need. The treatment of such cases is very difficult. The use of opium or other narcotics is objectionable, not only because it may tend to induce that dreadful condition, the opium habit, but because it frequently happens that the sufferer from sleeplessness is obliged to have all his faculties clear and all his wits about him in order to get through his daily work. The administration of opiates at night tends in many people to produce a certain amount of dulness through the day, which would render the use of these drugs inadmissible, even if there were no other objection to their use.

Chloral is not so objectionable on this account, as it may induce sleep without in the least obscuring the mental faculties next day, but the use of chloral also is objectionable both because of the tendency to the formation of a chloral habit, and because its long continued use may have a weakening action on the heart and also a deleterious action on the brain. I have seen at least one case in which the continued use of chloral appeared to induce mania, which began to improve as soon as the patient was removed to an asylum and cut off from the use of the drug.

Bromide of potassium is probably the least objectionable of all, but in many cases of overwork it seems to lose entirely, or almost entirely, its hypnotic action.

In treating some cases of persons engaged in literary work who were suffering from sleeplessness and yet were obliged to have their brains perfectly clear during the day, it occurred to me that if I could convert the condition of over-tiredness into a condition of simple tiredness, the patient would naturally fall sound asleep without the use of any hypnotic. One can sometimes do this to a certain extent by giving some warm beef-tea or a tea-spoonful of Valentine's meat juice in water either hot or cold, or by giving a little alcoholic stimulant, such as whiskey and water or brandy and water. It is probable that these substances have a double action, tending to dilate the vessels of the stomach and withdrawing blood from the head, as well as tending to exert what we may vaguely term a stimulant action on the nervous tissues themselves, without understanding what the exact nature of this stimulant action is. It occurred to me that as strychnine is one of the