

3. The relative quantities of arterial and venous blood and extra-vascular serum vary with, first, cardiac contractions; second, respiratory movements; third, sleep and wakefulness; and fourth, mental excitement and repose.

HISTORY OF OVIARTOMY.

Some testimonial is to be raised to the memory of Dr. EPHRAIM MCDOWELL, who in 1809, at Danville, Kentucky, first performed ovariectomy, (in its modern sense,) all statements of English authorities to the contrary notwithstanding. The truth would seem to be that the operation was suggested by William Hunter; its practicability, and the mode of performing it, were taught by John Bell; it was first practised and that successfully, by McDowell, a pupil of Bell, in 1809; and it was not until 1823 that an attempt (with fatal issue in each of the four cases) to introduce it into Britain was made by Lizars of Edinburgh. A monument to McDowell on the site of the house where the operation was performed, seemed to be in favor with those discussing the matter, but it is not yet settled.

USE OF ALCOHOL.

After an attempt to table the following resolutions offered by Dr. F. Horner, of Virginia, they were passed *seriatim* by the section on State Medicine and Public Hygiene:

Resolved, That in view of the alarming prevalence and ill-effect of intemperance, with which none are so familiar as members of the medical profession, and which have called forth from eminent English physicians the voice of warning to the people of Great Britain concerning the use of alcoholic beverages, we, as members of the medical profession of the United States, unite in the declaration that we believe that alcohol should be classed with other powerful drugs; that when prescribed medically it should be done with conscientious caution and a sense of great responsibility.

Resolved, That we are of the opinion that the use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage is productive of a large amount of physical and mental disease; that it entails diseased appetites and enfeebled constitutions upon offspring; and that it is the cause of a large percentage of the crime and pauperism of our large cities and country.

Resolved, That we would welcome any change in public sentiment that would confine the use of intoxicating liquors to the use of science, art and medicine.

ELECTRICITY IN SURGERY.

Dr. GEO. M. BEARD, of New York, of electrical

fame, gave an address which bore out the following conclusions:

First—That certain benign tumors, as goitres, cystic tumors, enlarged glands and nævi, can be made to disappear under electrolysis, the needle being plunged into the tumor.

Second—That fatty tumors and enlarged lymphatic glands are usually very difficult to diminish by electrolysis, and sometimes will not diminish at all.

Thirdly—That malignant tumors will not and rarely, if ever, entirely disappear under electrolysis; but the pains connected with them can be treated most successfully by electrolysis and also by simple external galvanization with sponges.

Fourth—That malignant tumors when sufficiently accessible and not too far advanced, may be treated by electrolysis the base or "working up the base," as he terms it. This method promises more permanent results than have been obtained by the usual treatment.

Fifth—That certain diseases of the skin, notably *herpes frontalis seu ophthalmicus*, chronic *eczema* and *prurigo*, have been treated, and up to the present date with the most gratifying success.

Sixth—That diseases of the skin may be treated by local and central methods of using electricity; but some of the most brilliant results in the treatment of chronic *eczema* have been obtained by galvanizing the nerve centres in the method of central galvanization *without making any application to the diseased parts*. The results of this treatment seem to show pretty conclusively that chronic *eczema* is, to a considerable extent dependent on the central nervous system.

NEW REMEDY FOR PRURITUS.

Dr. L. D. BULKLEY advocated the use of an ointment containing chloral and camphor, thus adding one more to the host of anti-pruritics.

CHRONIC ECZEMA.

Dr. BULKLEY also holds that what we now term chronic *eczema* is not necessarily a constitutional, but is often a local disease. Remedies mostly used—arsenic, glycerine, cod liver oil, tar ointment, mutton suet and lard, carbolic acid and solution of tar and caustic potash. Dr. Woodward, U. S. army, and Dr. C. B. Hall, of Toronto, advocated the local application of arsenic to *eczematous* patches, alleging experience.