

phining was performed and a gliosarcoma found in the right anterior central convolution; this was removed as completely as possible. The operation was followed by marked improvement of the paretic symptoms, while the convulsive phenomena ceased altogether. Eight months later, however, they came on again, though with less severity. A year after the first operation the patient was again trephined, and it was found that recurrence had taken place. The growth was again extirpated, the circumjacent tissue being removed even more freely than before. The second operation was also followed by improvement, but the symptoms did not entirely disappear.—*British Medical Journal*.

#### OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY.—

Kümmell (*Deut. med. Woch.*) first refers to two cases in which the vertebral arteries were ligatured (in 1884) for genuine epilepsy with very temporary benefit, and to another severe case in which the superior cervical ganglion was extirpated. Four cases are then recorded in which trephining was practised over definite tender spots with a longer or shorter cessation of the fits and with considerable mental improvement. A further case, however, died in consequence of the operation. Kümmell says that the results in such cases of idiopathic epilepsy cannot be looked upon as very satisfactory, and doubts whether any case has been really cured. The so-called reflex epilepsy is next referred to. Cortical or Jacksonian epilepsy, almost always traumatic in origin, is the most important in regard to surgical treatment. After giving some details in regard to the method of operation and the localisation of the lesion, the author relates three cases. (1) A man, aged 34, received a blow on the head in 1881. Four years later the fits began. They started in the facial area and arm. They became more frequent later, and intense headache supervened in 1887. Trephining was practised in 1888 at the site of a tender scar over the parietal bone. There was nothing on the inner surface of the bone, but the dura mater was adherent to parts beneath, and presented a cicatricial appearance. It was excised. The patient has remained quite well since the operation 3½ years ago. (2) A boy, aged 5, had been previously trephined, but with only passing benefit.

The fits affected the left arm and face. The corresponding centres were exposed, but no pathological change was found. The fits returned later. The author thinks that he will have to remove these centres. (3) A lad, aged 20, had a blow on his head in September 1891. Ten days later there was spasm in the right arm and face. The speech, sight, and hearing became affected. There was slight paralysis of the face and right arm. The choked disc was present. The patient was trephined over one of two cicatrices. A rent in the dura mater and adhesions were found. This part of the dura mater was excised. The patient recovered perfectly from the symptoms, a prolapse of the brain alone remaining. The author then refers to the case of an idiot, aged 3 years, with frequent fits. A depression was found near the lambdoid suture, probably the result of injury during birth. A large piece of bone was temporarily resected, and a deep depression was found in the brain. The corresponding bony projection was removed. Very great improvement followed, even while the child continued under observation. Later its mental development was still progressing, and there had been no fits.—*British Medical Journal*.

#### OPERATIONS ON AGED SUBJECTS.—

Blum (*Arch. Gén. de Méd.*) asserts that as a result of recent improvements in surgical treatment, subjects of advanced age may be submitted to operation without any special risk. Whilst regarding as aged subjects those over 70, he points out that they are theoretically old whose anatomical elements and tissues have lost much of their physical, chemical and organic properties. The chief physiological characteristic of old age, he states, is atrophy of the structures of the body, and especially of adipose tissue. Reference is made to several instances reported by British surgeons of successful operations on old people, and records are given of fourteen cases in which equally satisfactory results have been obtained by himself. In one of these a woman, aged 84, recovered after removal of a cancerous mamma; one woman, aged 81, was operated on with good results for strangulated umbilical hernia, and another, ten years older, for femoral hernia. The list includes several instances of removal of malignant growths. The