

and that the supplying of the drug medicinally compensates for the absence of it.

One of the best articles upon the therapeutic uses of thyroid was presented by Professor Osborne, of Yale University, in the 1906 meeting of the American Medical Association, and was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association on November 3, 1906. It is an excellent summary of the therapeutics of thyroids, and has some most excellent allusions to experimental work done along the line of thyroid feeding by this author. Periodical literature, however, is full of short articles, experiments, therapeutic tests, etc., all bearing upon the thyroids.

In certain cases of thyroid disease, both of the hypothyrea and hyperthyrea types, we fail to get results from any of our therapeutic measures. In the hypothyrea type the deleterious results are frequently due to pressure manifestations; while in the hyperthyrea type the symptoms of tachycardia, tremor, muscular weakness and mental excitement may end in a fatal result unless the patient is promptly and suitably relieved. Where our therapeutics fail it is necessary that surgery should be resorted to. Comparatively little has been done in the surgical way upon the thyroid in this country, but in Switzerland a vast number of operations have been performed. Kocher, of Berne, did during his life nearly 3,000 operations upon the thyroid gland. Of these 3,000, 60 were performed upon cases of hyperthyrea or exophthalmic goitre. His results were wonderfully successful, he having lost only 3 per cent. of all his cases. He performed a series of several hundred goitre operations without losing a patient. Of these 3,000, many were exceedingly serious and dangerous cases. His results, in so far as improvement was concerned, were likewise excellent. Pressure symptoms were relieved in cases of hypothyrea with goitrous enlargement, and the ordinary symptoms of hyperthyrea were likewise greatly mitigated in most cases, if not entirely cured. Occasionally he had a failure, but taking it all in all his results were excellent. Operations done in this country and in England for hyperthyrea by removing a portion of the thyroid gland have shown likewise excellent results.

Surgery should never be resorted to however in hyperthyrea, until the resources of rest, thyreoidection, and iodine have been given their fullest test. Of the older remedies little need be said. Occasionally they may be of value, notably digitalis for the disturbed heart's action. We must confess, however, that our therapeutics in hyperthyrea have been woefully wanting in efficacy until the advent of the newer remedies.