

acupressure, and contains abundant evidence of the success of his method of securing bleeding vessels. The objections to acupressure urged by high surgical authority are answered in a clear, lucid, and masterly style, and many of the British journals bear testimony to the success of acupressure where it has been tried. It certainly appears to us to be preferable to the ligature, and we should imagine will eventually become the rule in practice, ligation the exception, to be used only in cases and positions where acupressure is inaccessible.

As some of our readers may not be aware of the method of applying acupressure, we will endeavour to illustrate. A strong steel needle is introduced from the outside of the stump (in amputation) embraces the artery, and again is passed through the skin at a short distance from its point of entrance; if necessary the two ends of the needle are bound together with wire in the same way as in operations for hare-lip. This is not always necessary; but in the larger vessels would be only a precautionary step. Several bleeding points can be secured with one needle where they are contiguous. These needles can be removed at any time, at the option of the operator, twenty-four hours being usually sufficient to ensure adhesive inflammation of the coats of the vessel, and preclude the probability of secondary hemorrhage, or they can, without detriment to the patient, be allowed to remain in for weeks, their presence being unattended with suppuration or any uneasiness. Their removal is simple, and the practice, where employed, has given general satisfaction.

To Dr. Simpson is certainly due the thanks not only of the profession but of the public for this suggestion, one of many, his brain, ever fertile in improvements, has given to the profession the results of careful thought which in this instance may and we trust will change the present statistical features of operations connected with the blood-vessels. All operative surgeons are aware of the trouble which occasionally succeeds amputation and ligation of vessels, such as sinuses, tedious union from extensive suppuration, and a host of other evils, not overlooking the constant dread of pyæmic poisoning.

Dr. Simpson claims for acupressure the following advantages over the ligature.

It does not require the vessel to be removed from its vital organic connections.

It does not produce direct mechanical injury to the vessel, bruising and lacerating the two internal coats, strangulating the external coat, which leads to destruction of the constricted part, the injury often extending higher up than the point ligated.