

After the attachment of the riband to the skin by means of the collodion has been perfected by the evaporation of the ether, and after an assistant has brought the lips of the wound accurately together by his hands, the surgeon takes his waxed thread and passes it round the pins, in the usual figure of eight manner. Dr. Avigné thinks that the sutures should be independent of each other, as it permits us to augment or diminish at pleasure, the traction on the lips of the wound, without deranging the whole of the dressing.

The *modus operandi* of such a procedure is obvious. A most powerful and sustained traction is effected on the skin, drawing together the cut edges of the wound with the most precise accuracy. The author of the paper enumerates in addition the following advantages:—complete absence of pain—freedom from cicatrices at the points where the old pins passed—great solidity of the wound, proportional to the tractive power employed, which may be maintained as long as we desire—great facility in undressing and redressing the wound—avoidance of all foreign bodies in the wound—freedom from erysipelas in consequence of non-employment of any adhesive plaster—and finally, the ease with which the cause of a secondary hæmorrhage can be discovered, by throwing open the wound to its bottom, without the infliction of the least pain, as nothing more requires to be done under such a condition of matters, than to sever the ligatures to the extent it may be deemed necessary.—*Translated and abridged from the "Journal de Médecine de Bordeaux," by Editor B. A. G.*

#### TREATMENT OF DELIRIUM TREMENS BY LARGE DOSES OF DIGITALIS.

By T. B. PEACOCK, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, London.

CASE 1.—J. T., aged 30, formerly a soldier who had served in North America, the Crimea, and India, and had just returned from Calcutta, was admitted into St. Thomas's Hospital, under my care, on October 14, 1860. He was received, labouring under symptoms of delirium tremens, at half-past two, p.m., and was reported to have taken a quart of spirits daily for several days. At half-past six, when he was in a very restless and excited state, suffering from retching and sickness, and his pulse 103 in the minute, he was directed to have half an ounce of the tincture of digitalis, and the dose was given in a quarter of an hour. At a quarter to eight the pulse had fallen to 72, and was of good volume, and he was much quieter, free from sickness, and disposed to sleep. At eleven, p.m., he was much in the same state; pulse 76 and regular; he had not slept, but was quiet, and still seemed disposed to sleep.

At ten, a.m., on the 15th he was seen by myself: he was reported not to have slept ten minutes during the night, and had been restless and trying to get out of bed, but not violent. The tongue was dry and a little red, the pulse 80, somewhat sharp, and decidedly resistant. The sounds of the heart were natural, except the second, which was somewhat indistinct. The pupils were large, and not apparently affected by light. The urine deficient in quantity, and high coloured. His manner was hasty, but he spoke quite rationally, and he took his food well. During the evening and night of the same day he slept for a considerable period, and the following morning he was much better. He was quite intelligent, but still he had a somewhat agitated manner. The pulse was 80 to 84 in the minute and feeble, and the second sound of the heart was very indistinctly audible. He was directed to have five grains of the sesquicarbonate of ammonia in an ounce and a half of decoction of bark every three hours.

On the 17th he continued to improve, and on the 18th his appearance and manner were much more tranquil, the tongue somewhat dry and slightly furred; the bowels regular; pulse 80. He had made water freely, but said that the quantity was less than usual. He was directed to have the quinine and iron mixture three times daily and the mixed diet. To be allowed to leave his bed. When up there was a considerable increase in the frequency of the pulse—greater than was perhaps explained by his