

ness and "weakness" of the joints concerned. Cases are related to illustrate this group. Howard Marsh; F. R. C. S. —*Medical Press and Circular*.

### ANY DECREASE

in the normal activity of the nerves or nerve-centers means constipation. This author studied cases of abdominal section, and concludes that (1) in acute pelvic peritonitis, both enemata and drugs by mouth shall be used to produce catharsis before operation; drugs by mouth and oil per enemata after operation. (2) In all acute inflammatory conditions in the abdomen in which the alimentary tract is involved the bowels should be moved by enemata alone before and after operation, the enema of salts, turpentine and glycerine being the best.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

### CATHARSIS IN ABDOMINAL SURGERY.

Crandon gives the results of observations made during his service as house officer in the Boston City Hospital on catharsis in abdominal surgery. It has been proven by a number of experiments that peristalsis is a reflex action. The lower part of the ilium has been proven to be the place where the contents of the intestine move the fastest. It has been found that the vagus nerve when stimulated directly or reflexly increases peristalsis, and that moderate stimulation of the splanchnic nerve decreases it.—*Interstate Medical Journal*.

### DIABETES IN SURGERY.

Robert T. Morris gives three reasons why diabetes interferes with surgeons: (1) The sugar circulation in the blood is hygroscopic, and it draws water from all the body until the tissues are actually dry. This must interfere with the normal process of repair, and it probably does so in several different ways. (2) The surgeon must give these cases his special attention, because the fluids of a wound loaded with sugar are in all probability excellent culture media for bacteria, and are particularly suitable for the growth of bacteria therein. (3) Certain anesthetics may precipitate an impending nephritis because of the unusual labour involved in excreting sugar. In these cases the