

divided by a midriff you can have strong currents of air flowing side by side in opposite directions.

The interchange of gases which are in solution readily takes place by the process of diffusion: and osmosis must play a very important part in transudation and absorption according as the osmotic equivalent is greater on one side than the other of the capillary membrane. In 1886, when dealing with the pathology of dropsy, I said: "Fluids pass very readily through organic membranes, such as the walls of the capillaries, by a process of osmosis, but albumens do not thus readily transude. Unlike the capillaries of the lungs and kidneys, the systematic capillaries allow albumen to pass through their walls, so that it is found in all the intercellular fluids. Now, if it does not pass through by osmosis, we must suppose it to be filtered through under varying amounts of pressure. In filtering under pressure, as a rule, the greater the pressure the greater the amount of the filtrate, but the composition of the latter differs very materially from the nature of the compound fluid submitted to the pressure, as the different constituents pass through with varying degrees of ease. the water passing through much more readily than the albumen. Hence, although the total amount of albumen passed through may be increased according to the quantity of the filtrate, its percentage is diminished. Hence, the greater and more rapid the production of dropsy—if there be no increase in absorption—the less the relative amount of albumen." Runeberg in 1882 expressed similar views when he maintained that the concentration of a colloid filtrate is greater at lower than at higher pressures.—Abstracted from *British Medical Journal*.

ADDRESS IN SURGERY.

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ON THE TECHNIQUE OF OPERATIONS ON THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.

In considering in what way I could best fulfil the extremely honorable and at the same time responsible duty of delivering the Address in Surgery on the occasion of such a meeting as this, it occurred to me that exactly twenty years had elapsed since I showed at the annual meeting of the Association at Brighton the