

the re-opening may become necessary after the patient has come out of the anæsthetic, and when no assistance is at hand. I have controlled very severe secondary hemorrhage by packing the vagina, but suffered many night calls and much anxiety. The hemorrhage stopped and set in again half a dozen times, and blanched the patient, but I could not see any urgent necessity for undoing all my work. The result was ultimately perfectly successful. The hemorrhage was due to sudden bursting of a stitch, uniting the edges of the vaginal pared surface, occurring during a fit of uncontrollable laughter.

As to silk-worm gut sutures, I may say that they will produce suppuration just as any other sutures will. The wound surface itself may suppurate, but because the sutures can be left in, and because the sutures hold well, union will take place by granulation, and will be satisfactory. In such cases, sutures should be left until healing is complete.

Having seen the operation done, there is no practitioner of ordinary intelligence who cannot sew up a lacerated perinæum, and cure his patient. Careless after-treatment of a case done by any of the many methods devised will surely result in failure. It is not so much the method of operating, as the care of minor details taken before and after operation, that leads to a successful issue.

THE PARIS MORGUE

The morgue was founded (1) to shelter and preserve bodies, where crime had been committed, till the machinery of the law could be set in motion; (2) to expose the dead bodies of unknown persons to the public gaze, until their identity should, if possible, be established. For this purpose two principal apartments were obtained, about which were grouped smaller rooms for various accessory purposes.

PRESERVING ROOM.

The room destined solely for the preservation of the dead is very large, with high ceiling, and paved with stone. In one wall are a number of compartments, arranged in three superimposed tiers, of the length of the human body. Each compartment, resembling a baker's oven, is hermetically closed by bolted wooden doors. The

walls of these cells are lined by pipes, placed side by side in the lowest tier, separated by small intervals, and consequently diminishing in number as we approach the upper tiers. Through these pipes there is a continual circulation of cooling fluid (chloride of calcium solution), which lowers the temperature to 20° below 0°C. in the lowest tier, and from 10°, 8° below in the upper tiers.

At 20° the bodies are frozen in their entire thickness, including the viscera. They now form solid blocks as hard as marble, which can be broken only by the aid of the axe or hammer. In that state they can be preserved for an indefinite period, and it is often curious to witness the stupefaction experienced by some criminals, arrested a year or more after the murder, when they are brought face to face with their victims, and see the wounds they had inflicted, in the identical state in which they had left them.

Bodies fished out of the Seine, and already in a state of putrefaction, are exposed to the same temperature (20° C.). They, of course, do not return to their former condition, but all decomposition is completely arrested.

Although this proceeding preserves the body, it renders the autopsy very difficult; for, that it may be strictly accurate, the body should have regained its previous suppleness. The body thus frozen, when exposed to external air, requires several days, even in summer, to return to its natural state, and frozen tissues quickly putrefy when thawing takes place.

To obviate this difficulty, a hot chamber has been erected in a neighboring room, whose temperature can be raised to above 200° C. The bodies are exposed to this temperature for three or four hours, after which the autopsy may be proceeded with.

When it is not necessary to preserve the bodies for a long period, they are placed in the compartments of the upper tiers, where the integument and muscles are frozen, but not the viscera. Such bodies are well preserved for some weeks, and are much more easily thawed out.

EXPOSING ROOM.

The exposing room is the one accessible to the public. It is divided by a glass partition into two rooms of equal size. The one is accessible from the street; the other is entirely shut