

the patient blows, the velum palati remains in contact with the posterior wall of the pharynx, and Politzerization can be performed without the slightest difficulty.—*Med. Age.*

A BLOODLESS OPERATION FOR HÆMORRHOIDS.—Manley, *Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, has examined the rectum in a considerable number of cases, both dead and living, where the gut was supposed to be healthy, and has found in more than 50 per cent. venous varices of the rectum. He considers that the hæmorrhoidal dilatation in man is a physiologically degenerate condition, which in late life is a source of no inconvenience, but which at middle age is often attended by or associated with such complications as to render it a distinct pathological lesion. He says that this view is supported by the fact that cutting out, injecting, or ligating off sundry hæmorrhoidal masses will not in all cases cure the disease. When an operation is requisite he recommends that the following be performed: First, the bowel is emptied by a purgative given the evening before, and on the morning of the operation the parts are thoroughly cleansed and made aseptic. Then a solution of cocaine is injected subcutaneously so as to render the anal region anæsthetic. The sphincter is then dilated in the usual way and the hæmorrhoidal masses carefully dried. Each hæmorrhoid is seized separately, close to its base, firmly between the tips of the thumb, index, and middle fingers, first put on a moderate but full stretch, then twisted, and finally so completely crushed that it is reduced to a pulp and none of the investing tunics remain except the mucous membrane and its under stratum of fibrous tissue. When this has been completed the entire mass is pressed up inside the sphincter, a suppository of opium introduced, a pad and bandage applied, and the patient returned to the bed. An active but painless inflammation follows, and in two or three weeks atrophy and absorption have so reduced the vascular masses that nothing remains but their shrunken stems. Thirty-two cases have been treated in this way, all with very satisfactory results, recurrence apparently not taking place. For this operation the author claims the following advantages: (1) The operation may be performed with a less number of assistants, and is very simple in its *technique*. (2) As there is no division of the tissues the danger of infection, of abscess, ulceration, and fistula are eliminated. (3) There is no danger from the immediate loss of blood during the operation, or of serious secondary hæmorrhage.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

THERAPEUTICS OF VIBURNUM PRUNIFOLIUM.—As a uterine tonic, black haw has no equal; it is specific in preventing abortion, and if the waters have not broken it accomplishes the desired result.

In habitual abortion it does not always succeed the first time, but by continuing its use it usually succeeds the second time.

In one case a lady had miscarried four times. The fourth time she used viburnum without results. The fifth time the agent was used, and the catastrophe was averted at the fourth month. But during the next two months the patient did not feel well, and decreased in size instead of increasing. At the expiration of that time, pains came on, which were encouraged, and the woman delivered of a small fœtus fully two months dead *in utero*.

In another case the fœtus died at from three to five months in each of three pregnancies, and the death was announced from two to four weeks later by the tendency to miscarriage. This could be checked by viburnum, but the agent was withdrawn the third time for obvious reasons. The lady is now three months pregnant, and is being fed with concentrated foods and the compound phosphates to preserve the life of the fœtus.

Viburnum is efficacious in dysmenorrhœa of whatever character. It is safe and reliable in after-pains, promoting involution. Goss gives viburnum at the time of the painful period. Wood claims there is danger of increasing the uterine contraction by large doses, but this has never been observed, though its marked effect in checking uterine hæmorrhage frequently has been manifested. He gives the agent in smaller doses, and claims equally good results; he advises one-drop doses in singultus. Schatz, on the contrary, believes that large doses decrease uterine contractions.—*Chicago Medical Times.*

A NEW PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF NERVOUS CATARRH.—*Jour. Med. Association.* The writer believes that hay fever is due mainly to an excess of uric acid in the blood, and has treated cases on this theory, with good results. By doses of acid at night and in the morning, the matinal attacks of sneezing and nasal stenosis were broken up. Dilute sulphuric acid was first tried, but acid phosphate was found more satisfactory. Nitro-glycerin, nitrite of sodium, nitrite of amyl, etc., produce parallel effects. Opium, iron, and lead diminish the alkalinity of the blood and reduce the amount of uric acid. Quinine is contra-indicated. For temporary use in the beginning of nervous catarrh or common colds a mixture of atropine and morphine, one part to fifty, is valuable. The ordinary adult dose of this mixture is one-sixteenth to one-eighth of a grain, repeated in an hour or two if the dose does not relieve the sneezing and the other symptoms. The author dispenses the remedy so that its composition is not known to the patients. As a spray a solution of camphor and menthol, one to three per cent. in benzoïnol, is recommended. The patient