

exploratory puncture and aspiration may be employed.

9. That by the adoption of this measure the necessity for multiple trephine openings can be largely obviated.

10. That the employment of a blunt-pointed aspirating needle, as suggested by Rentz, is probably the safest mode of exploration and evacuation.

11. That drainage is desirable in the after-treatment of such cases.

12. That both during and subsequent to operative interference in these cases a rigid antisepticism is imperatively required.

Sarcoma of the Vagina in Children.

Dr. Schuchardt read before the second congress of the German Gynecological Society at Halle last May a paper on two classes of "Malignant Disease of the Vagina in Children." Both had undergone operation in Professor Volkman's wards. Seven cases have already been recorded in medical literature by Ahlfeld, Sager, Babès, Demmel, Soltmann, Hauser, and Heintal. In only one case was the tumor noticed at birth; the ages of the patients, when observed by the above authorities, ranged from two to five. The growth usually appeared as an irregular prominence, like a bunch of grapes, and always proved very malignant in its clinical history. The first case occurred in a child, aged seven, who died from recurrence of the sarcoma two months after operation. The second patient was about five years of age. She had fallen ill early in 1885; her nurse then noticed that a swelling, the size of a bean, protruded at the vulvar aperture when she coughed. The growth was excised, together with a piece of the vaginal wall, "the size of a ten-pfennig piece," in September, 1885. Six months and two weeks later local recurrence was detected; a tumor, about the size of a walnut, was removed, and with it was taken away the lower half of the posterior vaginal wall. The cut margin of the upper half was drawn down and sewn to the perinæum. The patient made a very good recovery, and there was no sign of recurrence in May, 1888. The new growth was in both cases papillomatous; the internal structure bore the microscopic characters of a round-celled sarcoma. Dr. Schuchardt believed that the tumor took its rise from certain papillary structures which naturally existed in the region of the vulva.

Ingenuity in Minor Surgery.

M. Gill, M.D., writing to the Editor of *Medical Reporter* says—An item in your November issue, reminds the writer of a long neglected duty. You transcribe the case of 'Thomas Dunigan, a stalwart young blacksmith,' who was allowed to bleed to death from hemorrhage produced by extraction of a tooth.

The following incident occurred many years since in Williamsport, Penn.: Dr. H., a principal physician of the town, had a tooth extracted, resulting in a continuous, uncontrollable hemorrhage. Brethren of the profession were called in but without avail, and their united efforts became a meditation upon death. The patient became exsanguined and his life was despaired of. A young M.D., Dr. James Tayler, had recently come to the village and opened his office. As a dernier ressort he was invited to see Dr. H. At once he applied pulv. gallæ with a cotton tent held down by a properly adapted vial cork, maintained in position by the opposing teeth.

Immediately the hemorrhage was stayed, and a valuable life preserved. Might not the life of that stalwart young man have been saved by the same simple measure?

THERAPEUTICS.

The Relative Value of the Bromides.

Every ten grains of sodium bromide contain 7.76 grains of bromine, and every 10 grains of potassium bromide contain 6.72 grains of bromine; so that, in order to prescribe the same weight of bromine, we must give, instead of 10 grains of bromide of potassium, only 8.6 grains of bromide of sodium. So also with the iodide of potassium, a ten-grain dose is represented by a nine-grain dose of iodide of sodium.

A Pleasant Purgative for Children.

Dr. R. R. Mitchell, of Cleveland, says: It is conceded, I believe, that castor oil would be the most popular purgative for children known, if it were not for its objectionable taste; that aromatic syrup of rhubarb is a most excellent purgative, and would be used, almost to the exclusion of other preparations, if the irritant after-effect that follows its administration did not militate against its employment; and that cascara cordial, from its desirable tonic properties, would be the *sine qua non*