

increased gradually from the commencement, years ago. Her sufferings were now so intense that she felt they could no longer be endured and consequently she urged to have the tumor removed. With this object in view I put her under the influence of ether and with the assistance of Dr. Chaney and students Babcock and Collar, proceeded to operate as follows: An incision was made just in front of the ear from a point about one inch above the external auditory meatus, and carried downwards in the neck parallel with the anterior margin of the sterno-cleido-mastoid muscles to the external jugular vein. This wound was deepened to thoroughly expose the more superficial part of the tumor. Then with the handle of the scalpel and my fingers, the deeper parts were separated from the surrounding tissues until the base was reached; the external carotid artery was found to pass through the tumor behind the angle of the inferior maxillary bone, at which point there was a considerable constriction of the growth, apparently to accommodate the limited movement of that bone. Stout ligatures were passed about the artery at that point; and also about the constriction. Exploring deeper with fingers and scalpel the base of tumor was found prolonged beneath the base of the skull, and having such a relation to the internal jugular vein that that vessel would require ligation near its origin if further steps at its removal were undertaken. This latter procedure I did not deem it advisable to execute in view of the great danger from excessive hemorrhage or from phlebitis. Accordingly I abandoned the original purpose of the operation and amputated that portion of the tumor which had been isolated by the strong ligature passed about the constriction, introduced a drainage tube into the deep sulcus which I had excavated around the tumor, and brought the external wound together with interrupted sutures. The patient has enjoyed, since the operation, five weeks ago, complete relief from pain, and the tumor has entirely disappeared.

It is apparent that the attempts at isolation of the tumor made in this case must have destroyed all vascular parts passing into the capsule excepting those which enter from the base and are intimately associated with the deep vessels of the neck. Now, the point is that such interference with the vascular supply of these tumours will check their growth and may in some instances occasion their complete destruction. A sufficient supply of blood is maintained through the deep adhesions of the tumor to prevent gangrene and the consequent danger of septicemia, but not enough to maintain the rapid growth which may be expected when these tumors pursue their natural course.

Nussbaum, the experienced Bavarian surgeon, has advocated this method of treatment. It is said that in his hands it has proved a most gratifying success. In the present case the nutrition of the

tumor ceased from the day of operation. The color gradually changed from a pale pink to a dull white; and ten days after the operation, was easily removed from the wound with dressing forceps. As a dressing for the wound to guard against septic infection, a solution of boracic acid $\frac{3}{4}$ j, corrosive sublimate gr. j. in pure water Oij. was douched into it twice daily. There was very little constitutional disturbances following the operation. On the third day the patient resumed the care of her nursing infant and assumed light household duties. Four weeks after the operation she had so far recovered health and strength as to be able to journey by rail to her home, eighty miles from Detroit. The results of operations for the removal of tumors of deep origin in the neck have not been satisfactory in the hands of the average surgeon, nor have his more distinguished colleagues succeeded better, but, I cannot but believe that the method resorted to in the above case admits a wider range of application, and may some day prove useful in the treatment of tumors of the thyroid gland. It is certainly as rational a method for such tumors as is extirpation of the uterine appendages for the cure of uterine myoma. The principle involved is impairment of nutrition by destruction of vascular supply.—*Dr. Wyman, Med. Age.*

ANTISEPTIC SURGERY AT BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

Whether a surgeon believe in the germ theory or not, is a matter of little practical importance; but certain facts which are pertinent to the subject of germ development must be accepted by all. The discharges from wounds contain nutritious material for bacteria of different forms, and these bacteria rapidly avail themselves of the opportunity to propagate their kind whenever they are not prevented from doing so. The products of the decomposition caused by their growth are irritating to a wound, and change the natural order of reparative processes, to say nothing of the probability that special bacteria provoke particular forms of inflammation.

Any one can see bacteria w.h.o will take the trouble to look at them, and any one can appreciate the harmful influence of their presence in a wound if he will compare a wound containing many of them with a wound in which few have been allowed to enter. We are possessed of the means for restraining the development of bacteria, and whoever fails to gain this end fails to avail himself of the proper opportunities for making an aggression against the entrance of bacteria into a wound.

If the surgeon be perfectly familiar with the nature of fermentation processes, it is still no easy matter for him to take the necessary precautions for preventing them, and the most rigid following-out of the technique in his methods is required to