

done, whether the conditions lie within the pelvis, the abdomen, or both; and the limit of execution, should be gauged only by the general condition of the patient, her behavior under the anesthetic, and the inherent dangers of the operations to be performed. These, together with experience, skillful operating, strict asepticism, and watchful care of the patient, are the *sine qua non* of success.—*Manton, Phila. Med. Jour.*

Varieties of Enemata and Methods of Preparing the Same.

Of much practical value is a knowledge of not only the indications for the employment of rectal injections, but the different varieties thereof and their immediate method of preparation. A physician's resources are oftentimes abundantly enlarged by a practical adjustment to circumstances in this direction. For instance, purgative enemata may be necessary in patients who cannot well bear, or who respond feebly to cathartics by the mouth. After abdominal operations a purgative enema may be called for, and also in cases of intestinal obstruction and in many varieties of abdominal pain. Then again to supplement aperients given by the mouth cathartic enemata may be resorted to, likewise in almost all cases preceding operative work in the abdomen. An aperient enema should also be given before rectal and vaginal examinations, and before the administration of an anesthetic.

The simplest form of an enema for unloading the bowels is a mixture of soft soap and warm water, the activity of which may be increased by adding about half an ounce of turpentine, a handful of salt or a little molasses. In lieu of a watery enema (sometimes objectionable on account of the quantity necessary—one to three pints) four to six ounces of warm olive oil, two to four ounces of castor oil, or one ounce of glycerine, may be used. A little turpentine will aid any of these. Turpentine has always seemed especially valuable when there is much intestinal flatus.

Nutrient enemata become highly valuable in quite a number of conditions, among which may be mentioned persistent vomiting of pregnancy, gastric neuroses of other types, gastric ulcer, and other gastric diseased states, various intestinal conditions and operations upon the stomach and bowels, and sometimes in diseased conditions of the mouth, throat and esophagus. Nutrient enema usually are made up with peptonized milk, to which is added beef tea or extract, beaten eggs, various gruels and brandy as may be desired.

A cleansing enema should always precede one containing nourishment. A disregard of this rule has caused many a failure.

Normal salt solution, consisting of one dram of salt to one