

pains to state that the paraffin does not plug up the opening, but distributes itself into the tissues and leads to increase of the fibrous tissue. While this is going on, the paraffin acts as a support to the part. Full details are given in the book regarding the method of operating. Ten cases are reported as cured. In no instance has there been any bad result. This treatment will require to be on trial for some time yet before it can be regarded as reliable. Dr. Miller has, however, made out a good case.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

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### JUVENILE CRIME IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The principal feature of the British Prison Commissioners' report for the year ending March last is the reference to juvenile crime.

The commissioners say: "We are very glad to say that the diminution of juvenile crime, strictly so-called—that is, offences by persons under sixteen years of age—continues, the numbers of those between twelve years and under sixteen, during the last eleven years from 1897, having fallen from 1,630 to 566, or by nearly two-thirds. We have referred more than once to the remarkable decrease in recent years in the number of juveniles received into Birmingham prison. Last year there were only twenty, as compared with fifty the previous year, and only five from the city of Birmingham itself. This year there were only eight, as compared with twenty, and no case at all was received from the city of Birmingham—a singular example of the successful operation of the Children's Court in that city. The picture drawn by the Governor of Newcastle prison as to the treatment of juveniles in that city is not so bright. Though there has been a slight decrease in the committals—that is, from 120 to 93—that number is still high. He quotes the case of a boy, aged fifteen, who had seventeen previous convictions, and the longest sentence he had ever served was five days. He states, also, that when these boys are allowed time to pay their fines they make it the practice of surrendering themselves to the police on a Friday night, and so spend only one night in prison. The same boys are sometimes in prison for two or three weeks in succession. On one occasion six boys were received on a Friday under sentence of three days, and one with a sentence of two days. They were all by law released the following morning. We concur with the opinion of the governor as to the absolute futility and harmfulness of dealing with juvenile offenders in this way."

Referring to the Borstal system, the commissioners state that for the present and until there is an alteration in the law they will continue