Selections.

SURGICAL HINTS.

Old age and youth should certainly cause caution in operating, but both babes and old people can stand a good deal, and their age should never lead the surgeon to condemn them to death because he is too timid to take his chances.

When a patient has been very badly injured, remember that a condition of buoyant hopefulness is an indication of shock rather than of vitality, and do not let it lead you into the idea that the case is one favorable for operation. Count the pulse and investigate the temperature of the skin. The chances will be that heat and stimulation are needed.

In severe injuries of the head it is sometimes difficult to distinguish sutures and vascular grooves from fissured fractures, even after careful examination. Wipe the part over carefully with a sponge of absorbent cotton or gauze. The blood lying in a suture or groove may always be wiped away, whereas no amount of rubbing will remove the line of blood effused between fractured bones or separated sutures.

Abscesses and cysts situated in the body of the lower jaw often closely simulate solid tumors, and such swellings should always be opened before removing any portion of the jaw. It has more than once occurred that good surgeons have removed part of the jaw for a tumor that only required perforation and drainage. The bone, even in the case of chronic abscess, seldom becomes so thin as to give the cradkling sensation afforded by some abscesses of other bones.—*International Journal of Surgery.*

The Action of Alcohol.

Prof. G. Sims Woodhead, in *Journal of Inebriety* for January, states that the excessive use of alcohol causes marked changes in the cells of the organs. One of these changes is that known as cloudy swelling. The large swollen cells are granular. The nucleus is usually obscured. This cloudy swelling goes on to fatty degeneration. Another action of alcohol is to lessen or destroy the scavenging power of the leucocytes. Under the influence of alcohol they lose the capacity for absorbing poisons and producing anti-toxins. Under the influence of alcohol, these white cells fail to wall off organisms from the general circulation. In a number of experiments performed upon