

dicitis for other morbid conditions. Full reports are given of 11 cases in which, in the course of eighteen months, Brewer made the mistake of regarding as appendicitis conditions which, upon operation or necropsy, were shown to be other and unsuspected pathological processes. These cases are classified as follows: In 2 the symptoms were found to be due to renal calculus; in 4 to diseases of the uterine appendages; in 1 to sarcoma of the ileum; in 1 to cholecystitis; in 1 to acute suppurative pancreatitis; and in 2 to general sepsis. In the discussion in this paper, McCosh stated that those engaged in gynecological work are often much puzzled to distinguish between suppurative conditions of the tubes and ovaries and those of the appendix. Sometimes it was asserted, it is quite impossible to make a correct diagnosis before the abdomen has been opened, and even then it may be difficult to determine the primary seat of the trouble. It was pointed out by this speaker that in cases of general suppurative peritonitis the appendix is usually presumed to be the origin of the infective mischief. In male subjects this, in his opinion, is probably the case in 19 instances out of 20; but in the female there is not this almost constant relation, as the pelvic organs or the stomach are at times found to be at fault.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

A NEW METHOD OF DISTINGUISHING HUMAN BLOOD FROM THAT OF ANIMALS.

C. Tarchetti (*Gazz. degli Osped.*) describes a new procedure for this purpose: If into an animal (*a*) the blood of a different species (*b*) is injected, then after a certain time the blood of the animal (*a*) is found to be toxic towards the blood of the species (*b*). Thus, by repeated injections into rabbits of human blood—10 c.cm. on four or five occasions at intervals of about a week—Uhlenhuth and Wassermann got from the blood of the rabbit a serum which exhibits hemotoxic powers to human blood, not only in a fresh state, but also when dried and redissolved in normal saline solution. Ape's blood was the only other one which behaved like human blood. Wassermann and Schultze proceed thus: Dissolve the spot of blood to be examined in a little normal saline solution; filter; place 4 or 5 c.cm. in two small test tubes, to one of which (*a*) add 0.5 c.cm. of rabbit's blood made hemotoxic as above; to the other (*b*) add 0.5 c.cm. of normal rabbit's blood. A third control tube (*c*) may be made with 4 or 5 c.cm. of solution of the blood of any animal save ape or man in distilled water. Place the solutions in a thermostat at 37 degrees C.; if the spot of blood be human, in an hour's time the tube (*a*) will show a turbidity or a flocculent precipitate, while (*b*) and