

SURGERY.

THE CURE OF VARICOSE VEINS.

A MAN aged about thirty-five years was recently admitted into University College Hospital with a varicose condition of the veins of his left leg and thigh, associated with a varicose ulcer. From the latter a good deal of blood had been lost lately, and much inconvenience was felt from the presence of several knots and clusters of tortuous veins extending up the inner side of the thigh. The dilated vessels running up the leg to the middle of the thigh were of considerable size. Two pins were placed beneath the veins above and three below the knee, and the usual sutures applied over a small piece of bougie, on the 19th October; this was done without chloroform being given. The varicose knots were reserved till a future occasion for injection with the solution of the perchloride of iron. A week later the veins were found to be obliterated, and the effect of this was to diminish the venous knots already referred to. The ulcer had completely healed. Finally, some of the dilated veins were injected with the solution, but not the others, as coagulation had taken place within them. This was followed by some inflammation and an abscess, with a little constitutional disturbance, but the man has gone on well.

We saw some remarkably large varices at the above hospital on the 16th ultimo, situated at the inner side of the left thigh of a man of sixty, who had a varicose ulcer of both legs, in which the veins were in a varicose condition. Three pins above and three below the knee of each leg were placed in the usual manner under the veins, and complete obliteration has ensued, with a cure of both ulcers. A second case of varicose veins and ulcers of both legs was submitted to the same treatment in a man whose constitution was broken down; two pins below each knee, and one above the left knee were introduced. It is important to observe that this patient had been similarly operated upon three years ago, on his left leg, with a cure of the varix at that time; but the present knot of enlarged veins was an entirely fresh batch. There can be no doubt that in the majority of cases the veins operated upon are completely obliterated; but we believe, with Dr. Pirrie of Aberdeen, that a permanent cure of the tendency to varix is not accomplished, and that in many cases, sooner or later, the varix returns in some other veins.

The obliteration of varicose veins we saw also attempted at King's College Hospital on the 22nd October, by Mr. Fergusson, the subject being a young woman, a housemaid, who was much upon her feet, and the veins of whose left leg were enlarged and tortuous. A pin was passed underneath a large vessel at right angles to its trunk, and another was introduced through the vein itself in the direction of its length, so that some amount of inflammation might be induced; a twisted thread was now passed round the pins, with the effect of producing obliteration by the compression thus established.—*Lancet*.

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS IN FRANCE.

We alluded a short time ago to the reappearance, at the Grand Opera at Paris, of M. Roger, the celebrated tenor, who had the misfortune to lose his arm from a gun-shot wound. The benefit of this favourite singer took place on the 18th inst., before a crowded house. The friends and admirers of M. Roger were very apprehensive of the result of the experiment, knowing well that though any imperfect acting in consequence of the sad loss the singer had sustained would be looked upon with sympathy and commiseration, yet that his career would thus be completely marred. Their anxiety was, however, soon relieved; for the performance of M. Roger was such that a person not knowing that the right forearm was the work of art would never have suspected the calamity which has