

from the natural history of the great majority of cases of aneurism. We have then to endeavour to find a mean between the normal pressure and one too low. When this mean is obtained, the arterial coats behave, as Balfour puts it, "like a hollow muscle," which hypertrophies when opposed to obstacles with which it is unable successfully to cope. The dose required to bring about this sufficiency of lowered tension and no more, will vary somewhat in each case. From ten to fifteen grains will be found to be generally sufficient. The quantity is easily ascertained by placing the patient in bed for a few days without any other treatment; and his pulse rate attained night and morning for a few days. He is then given ten grains of the iodide three times daily. If the pulse rate remains unchanged the dose is increased to fifteen grains three times daily, and every week an increase of five grains to each dose is made until the pulse begins to rise. When the pulse rate is slightly increased, we have attained the proper quantity. More than that will do harm, less will do no good.

It will be seen, therefore, how important the matter of dosage is in the treatment of aneurism with iodide of potassium. It is to Dr. Balfour, of Edinburgh, that we owe most of our knowledge of the action and uses of this agent in aortic aneurism.

---

### LAWSON TAIT'S ABDOMINAL SURGERY.

In the *British Medical Journal* for the 15th of May, there is a remarkable article by a very remarkable man. It is a record of 139 consecutive successful cases of ovariectomy performed during the years 1884 and 1885 by Lawson Tait, of Birmingham. This wonderful achievement places this operation in the list of finished operations. As Tait says the time has about arrived when we had the last word to say about it. The great value of the article is not so much the wonderful record of successful operating, but rather the great suggestiveness of some of Mr. Tait's reflections. One of the most striking of these ideas is the peculiar way in which he alleges he deals with commencing peritonitis. In place of giving the time-honoured opium, he directs his patient to have a smartly acting