

excite cough when touched, whilst the anterior and lateral walls of the larynx are not so irritable. The wound healed by primary union, but in spite of the daily-repeated and long-continued passage of bougies through the mouth, there was gradual cicatricial stenosis of the larynx, and a month after the operation no air passed through the mouth.—The President complimented Dr. Semon upon the interest of his paper, on account of its novelty, and the candour and lucidity with which it was written. Dr. Andrew suggested that the asthmatical attack which occurred during the operation, characterized especially by marked inspiratory dyspnoea, was due to narrowing of the trachea just below the point where it was unduly distended by the bag of the tampon. Dr. Semon felt sure there was no narrowing of the trachea, for he was able to explore it thoroughly with a goose-quill, and although the dyspnoea was both expiratory and inspiratory, it was chiefly the latter; but he believed it produced by reflex action from pressure on the nerves supplying the mucous membrane, and thought this borne out by some experiments which had been made. Mr. M. Baker suggested that the elastic bag of the tampon may have been pressed down and caused obstruction. Narrowing sufficient to produce dyspnoea would not be proved by a quill. Mr. Holmes had had but small experience in thyrotomy, but he had seen no need to employ sutures, and criticised the procedure suggested by Dr. Semon, of not completing the division of the cartilage, as diminishing the area for manipulation, and preventing the complete exposure of the ventricular bands. Dr. Semon explained that one object he had in view was to preserve the anterior commissure of the vocal cords, and thus prevent that total loss of voice which Bruns had shown to follow after complete thyrotomy.—*The Lancet*.

Treatment of Neuralgia by hypodermic Injections of Ergot.—Marino recommends the injection of from 0.15 to 0.25 gr. dissolved in distilled water. This may be repeated once or twice, though, perhaps not more than six times, and acts well in certain forms of neuralgic pains, especially in the douloureux. It appears to act less favorably in sciatica.—(*Imparziale*, No. 8, 1878.)