

the liver, he deals with the removing of blood directly from the liver by means of a trocar and cannula.

This process he calls "hepatic phlebotomy." He first undertook to show that it is impossible to draw blood directly from the liver by means of cups or leeches, and that as compared with the withdrawal of an equal amount of blood from the arm, the leeching or cupping process is, if anything, inferior. Dr. Haley has long believed that the direct withdrawal of blood would be followed by great advantages in the case of hepatic engorgement, and at last succeeded in obtaining the consent of a patient and friends to the operation, which briefly was as follows: The patient was anæsthetized, and the liver was pierced in its upper part from right to left with an eight-inch trocar of the diameter of between a number 2 and 3 sized English catheter. The trocar was run in up to the hilt in the hope that in its passage it might wound sufficient vessels to yield a full stream of blood. On withdrawing the cannula an inch or two, a full stream flowed from its free orifice. Twenty ounces of blood were abstracted, a two-inch square piece of sticking-plaster applied over the external wound, and the abdomen tightly bandaged in order to bring the abdominal wall into close contact with the capsule of the liver to prevent any chance of hemorrhage. The liver, from the day of the operation, decreased in size, and by means of copaiba, resin and tapping, the ascites and anasarca which had existed disappeared, and the patient made a complete recovery from what Dr. Haley and Dr. Walker had considered a perfectly hopeless state.

It would appear from this that the liver may be safely punctured, and with great benefit to the patient. The operation certainly commends itself, and if future experience prove it to be safe, we shall no doubt soon have it established as one of the standard and remedial measures for chronic congestive hypertrophy and engorgement of the liver.

ELECTRICITY IN MEDICINE.—The large extent to which electricity is now used in the various departments of medicine has been the means of inducing a good many persons who have no special qualification for the work, to engage in the manu-

facture of instruments. Some of those offered for sale are really not worth using, and cause only vexatious disappointment when purchased and tried. We speak from experience when we say that the instruments manufactured by the Kidder Manufacturing Co., of New York, are without doubt the best in the market. The "Jerome Kidder" batteries are reliable and valuable instruments, and the well-known tip battery, the invention of Dr. Jerome Kidder, for convenience and practical utility has never been surpassed. The above-named batteries have received the highest endorsement of scientific authorities, and we heartily commend them to the attention of our readers.

OVARIOTOMY.—In a recent clinical lecture on Ovariectomy at the Hotel Dieu Hospital, Montreal, Dr. Hingston contrasted his earlier operations of twenty-five years ago with his later ones of the past couple of years. In the earlier operations the mortality was large—not often getting over three or four recoveries without a break—while lately he had reached sixteen recoveries without a break. And yet selected cases for the last sixteen recoveries embraced two removals of the uterus and all the appendages. Dr. Hingston attributed this decreasing ratio of mortality to better trained assistants, and hence less waste of time; to a more thorough cleansing of the wound before closing; and to a better system of nursing.

"NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING" AGAIN.—We regret to have to return to this unsavory subject again this month. The "Brockville Recorder" and the "Mitchell Recorder" of December 9 and 10, respectively, contain paragraphs which are, in the eyes of the profession, damaging to the medical men concerned. Paragraphs of the kind complained of may now and then appear in the papers, much to the disgust of the medical men concerned, but when they are repeated again and again, the parties so advertised must be held responsible if they do not put a stop to them.

DIPHTHERIA.—The *St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.* puts the case well in the following: "We venture to say that nine-tenths of the cases of so-called 'diphtheria' of which one hears, not only in St. Louis, but elsewhere, are simply follicular tonsillitis. We recently heard one young M.D.,