

a series of sittings disappeared altogether. In the third sitting of the Congress Madelung, of Rostock, spoke on the Operative Treatment of Nephrophthisis, declaring it to be quite admissible and well worthy of consideration in carefully chosen cases at the proper moment.

THE VERMIFORM APPENDIX.

Graser, of Erlangen, spoke in similar terms of the operative treatment of Peritonitis of the Vermiform Process. The inflammation and perforation of the vermiform process, caused for the most part by enteroliths (not, as was commonly supposed, by other foreign bodies), had been claimed hitherto by internal medicine as a part of its domain; its internal treatment, however, had not been so successful as was generally supposed, and a number of significant cases indicated the importance of surgical treatment. I shall send a report of the further sittings of the Congress next week.

AN UNNATURAL CRIME.—By Herbert A. Starkey, M.D., of Hegewish, Illinois. December 5th, 1889, while holding the position of instructor of anatomy in the Medico Clinical college of Philadelphia, I was asked of Coroner Bidwell, of Vineland, N. J., to examine the body of a colored woman found in an old shanty in the woods. The body had not been disturbed before I was called, and I found her lying on her back with a mass of rags and clothes drawn over the body, evidences of vomiting, and the clothing stained with blood from the vagina. A post mortem showed the abdominal cavity filled with bloody fluid, and at Douglas pouch, a tear large enough to admit a man's hand, through which protruded a portion of the omentum (this in the first examination had been taken for the membranes from an abortion.) The peritoneum about showed signs of an acute inflammation, death evidently having occurred three or four hours after the injury.

At the trial of a drunken glassblower, who had been seen leaving the house with his hand and arm stained with blood, it was proven that the prisoner had, in a drunken frenzy, thrust his hand into the

vagina and through the junction of its posterior wall with the uterus, up into the abdominal cavity grasped the uterus and attempted to drag it out.

Jersey law having hold of him he was convicted of murder in the second degree and sentenced to twenty years solitary confinement and hard labor.

The case seems to be a very rare one, and in my searches for similar cases could find none in any of our works on Jurisprudence or Gynecology.

NOTE.—A case somewhat similar was given in the NORTHERN LANCET, of August, 1889.—Ed.

ACTION OF SALICYLATE OF SODA ON THE UTERUS.—Dr. M. Wacker has recently published a series of cases in which salicylate of sodium was administered to women either for its anti-rheumatic or antithermic effects, or in metrorrhagia or for dysmenorrhœa. He administered it to two pregnant women, one in the second and the other in the fourth month, in each of whom the daily administration of 45 grains produced abortion; in six lying-in women the administration of salicylate of sodium occasioned metrorrhagia and increased very greatly the flow of blood then existing, and, in fact, in one case led to the production of fatal hemorrhage occurring on the fifth day after delivery. In five other cases salicylate of sodium administered immediately or a little after the menstrual period to calm dysmenorrhœa, produced the return of the menses without relieving the suffering. Nevertheless, in nineteen out of thirty-three cases of dysmenorrhœa a favorable result was obtained through the administration of the salicylate of sodium. The abortive action of salicylate of sodium appears to be incontestable, and the author attributes it to the great congestion of the uterus which it occasions.—*Therapeutic Gazette.*

AN excellent ointment for red hands, (*Pharm. Era*) is the following:—

R. Lanolin,	100 gm.
Paraffin, (liquid)	25 gm.
Vanillin,	0.01 gm.
Ol. rosæ,	sgt. j. M.

The Parisians apply a thin coating of this at bed-time.