

removed under general anæsthesia in the great majority of young children. 2. The cold snare and cocaine anæsthesia are satisfactory in older children and adults, but cocaine should not be used in young children. 3. Nitrous-oxide anæsthesia is frequently of too brief duration for the proper performance of this operation. 4. Ethyl bromide, apart from the question of its safeness, which is still undecided, is a desirable anæsthetic in many cases. 5. Ethyl bromide is not well taken, as a rule, by very nervous or frightened children. 6. Ether should be substituted for bromide of ethyl when the operation is likely to be a lengthy one. 7. The Gottstein curette is, all things considered, the most satisfactory single instrument, and particularly in bromide-of-ethyl operations.

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LAPAROTOMY AS A CURE OF TUBERCULAR PERITONITIS.—Dr. Girolamo Gatti (*Langenbeck Archiv*) gives an account of interesting experiments on the healing of tuberculosis of the peritoneum after simple laparotomy performed upon the experimental animals affected with peritoneal tuberculosis. An exudation of reddish watery fluid takes place, and is to be observed during the first six or seven days. The healing of the tuberculosis takes place as the result of the imbibition of this fluid by the epithelioid cells of the tubercles. At the same time, he believes, destruction or injury of the tubercle bacilli takes place. This retrograde process is responsible for the cure of the disease. In the earliest stage of the disease, before the tubercle has reached its typical form, the benefit derived is much less. The same is true if the laparotomy be neglected until large masses of caseating tubercles are to be found in the omentum. For this reason if a first laparotomy is not successful, a second operation may with propriety be attempted. The advantage of early operation is evident. Although not mentioned by the author, it would seem that such comparatively mild irritations as would be brought about by gently rubbing the peritoneum with a moist gauze sponge would add to the effect of abdominal incision.—*Medicine*.

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COMMON SENSE ON THE ALCOHOL QUESTION.—However temperate a man's own views may be on any such question as that of the use of alcohol, he is tempted to lean in his public utterances toward the contention of fanatics. He may not go to the extremes that they contend for; indeed, he is almost sure not to. But he is apt to make statements by which they can strengthen their case with the public, and especially with the legislators. It is refreshing to notice a recent