

## THE EXCISION OF CARBUNCLES.

Wölfler (*Centralblatt für Chirurgie*, No. 40, 1891) writes as follows: The slow healing of carbuncles after treatment by the usual method of deep incisions, the gangrene of the skin, and the danger of renewed infection of the adjacent parts, as well as the formation of a frequently disfiguring cicatrix, induced Riedel, since 1883, to excise at once in all cases. For this purpose a circular incision is made around the infiltrated parts. This is followed by radiating incisions, starting from the periphery of the previous one, and perpendicular to it, in the direction of the sound tissue. The carbuncle itself is not incised. In this way, at least four skin flaps are formed. These are cleared of inflammatory products. Once beyond the area of infiltration, the knife must be carried down to the fascia of the muscles and the whole of the morbid tissue removed, to bring the operation to an end. There is frequently very free bleeding, which is arrested by pressure and plugging. On the evening following the operation, the temperature tends to become normal; on the following day, the skin-flaps are brought nearer together. The central solution of continuity allows escape of secretions. Riedel praises this method for the following reasons: 1. A harmless loss of skin and subcutaneous tissue gets rid of a dangerous focus of inflammation. 2. The excision brings the local morbid processes to an end at once, and, consequently, all danger of general infection is removed. 3. The loss of sound tissue is small. 4. The healing is rapid. 5. The cicatrix is good.—*The Provincial Medical Journal*, December 1, 1891, p. 751.

## GLYCERIN FOR BURNS.

M. Grigoresen, of Bucharest, highly recommends pure glycerin as a remedy for burns. On first application, a slight burning feeling is experienced, which soon gives way to a local anæsthesia, somewhat resembling that produced by carbolic acid. In severe cases, two or three applications should be made, so that the parts are kept constantly wet with the glycerin. Under this treatment, the inflammation is subdued almost completely, and only a slight cicatrix is usually left.—*Notes on new Remedies*, December, 1891, p. 81.

## GALVANISM IN GYNÆCOLOGY.

Engleman, of Kreutznach, discusses (*Deut. Med. Woch.*) the value of galvanism in gynæcology. He believes that a retrograde metamorphosis in fibroid tumors is seldom had under galvanism,—at least, enough to show sensible diminution in size; endometritis is benefited, hæmorrhage and leucorrhœa disappear, pressure symptoms are relieved, reflex neuroses disappear; and he thinks the method of value

as an adjunct to other plans.—*St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal*, November, 1891, p. 306.

## THE INDUCTION OF LABOR-PAINS BY ELECTRICITY.

Freund reports (*Centralblatt für Gynæcologie*) the induction of labor-pains by the application of electricity to the mammary gland. He applied the cathode to the gland and the anode to the abdomen. Five to seven milliamperes are suggested.—*St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal*, November, 1891, p. 306.

## BELLADONNA IN THE FIRST STAGE OF LABOR.

When, notwithstanding persistent pains, the os uteri does not dilate sufficiently (especially if the patient be a primipara), Asher (*Australian Medical Journal*) recommends the administration, every hour or at shorter intervals, of 20 to 30 drops of the tincture of belladonna (never less than 20 drops). In numerous cases in which he tried this treatment, the results were always excellent,—rapid diminution of the pains, energetic dilatation of the os. Belladonna is superior to chloral.—*Rev. Méd.-Chir. des Mal. des Femmes*, October 25, 1891, p. 625.

## FISSURES OF THE NIPPLE.

Vinay recommends the following application for cracked or fissured nipples:—

R Aristoli..... 4 grammes (3j).

Vasellini liquidi..... 20 grammes (3v).—M.

Sig.—Paint the nipple with a camel's hair pencil, dipped in this liquid, after each nursing. Care should be taken to pinch the base of the nipple to expose the papillæ and discover all the cracks or fissures.—*Rev. Méd.-Chir. des Mal. des Femmes*, October 25, 1891, p. 626.

Dr. Frank Van Allen writes to the *New York Medical Journal* that he has found the painting of the nipples several times a day with the white of egg a most successful remedy in this distressing complaint. The albumen may best be applied just after nursing, while the nipple is still moist from the baby's mouth. The film should be allowed to dry on thoroughly before covering the breasts. It is well to moisten the nipple just before the baby is again put to the breast.—*St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal*, November, 1891, p. 299.

## IODO NAPHTHOL-BETA—A NEW ANTISEPTIC.

M. Braille (*Répertoire de Pharmacie*) has prepared with naphthol-beta and iodine a new antiseptic resembling aristol to which he has given the name iodo-naphthol-beta, or naphthol-beta diiodide. It is an inodorous, tasteless, greenish-yellow powder, insoluble in water,