

bleeding should be quite stopped before the patient is allowed to rise from the couch. The advantages of the plug are great; the glycerine maintains of course a drain of serum from the punctures, and so continues and increases the depletory action, and the cotton wool acts also mechanically as a direct support to the vagina and uterus. The conclusions I would draw in brief are these:—1st. That where the cervix uteri is deeply congested, deep red, bluish, or purple in color, local depletion by scarification generally gives immediate relief. 2nd. That where this congestion is caused and kept up by flexion of the uterus obstructing the return of the venous blood from the cervix, and causing chronic enlargement of the utrine veins generally, local depletion allows a pessary to be inserted with safety and comfort to replace the organ, which almost certainly could not otherwise be tolerated. 3rd. That in every case, of course, the possibility of the patient being pregnant would be investigated before scarification were attempted. 4th. In cases of subacute ovaritis or obscure throbbing pain in the pelvis cupping or leeching externally frequently relieves the patient immediately. 5th. In cases of vaginismus from inflamed hæmorrhoids or other rectal congestive conditions leeches round the anus give rapid relief or cure. 6th. That sacrifice is the simplest and safest method of abstracting blood from the cervix, with the precautions I have enumerated, leeches or cupping being kept for external use only.

EXOPHTHALMIC GOITRE.

By Augustus A. Eshner, A.M., M.D. Prize Essay,
Jefferson Medical College, 1888.

Dr. Eshner concludes his very valuable essay as follows: It would thus seem that the symptoms of exophthalmic goitre are best explicable on the theory of a lesion of the medulla oblongata, involving the cardio-inhibitory centre, the vasomotor centre, the respiratory centre, perhaps, also, the diabetic centre and other vital points concentrated in this neighborhood. Depression of the cardio-inhibitory centre, through the vagus, would give rise to rapidity, irritability and irregularity

of the heart's action, increased by the lowered vascular tension. The disturbance of the pneumogastric nucleus, or of a hypothetical vomit centre, might explain the vomiting and the manifestations of digestive disorder. Impaired action of the vasomotor centre would be attended with dilatation of the vessels, generally or locally, as varying areas or sub-centres are implicated. This, in turn, would be followed by increased vascularity of the thyroid gland, perhaps with exudation and hypertrophy; by similar conditions in the retro-bulbar tissues, producing exophthalmos. It would also give rise to subjective sensations of heat, to perspiration, to affections of the skin and to polyuria. Increased activity of the heart and diminished vascular tone would, together, give rise to abnormal pulsation of the vessels. The murmurs variously heard are anemic in origin. Involvement of the respiratory centre would explain the oppression of chest and the pseudo-angina. Diabetes would be produced by involvement of the diabetic centre. The motor phenomena, the paralyses, the tremor and the remaining nervous manifestations might be due to disturbances of adjacent ganglia and nuclei of gray matter.

That no palpable lesions are found post-mortem may arise from the fact that the disturbance is functional in its nature, due to molecular alterations in the intimate structure of the cells of the nerve centres, not appreciable to our present means of investigation—just such changes as may be conceived to exist in epilepsy, in hysteria, in tetanus.

The materia medica has been ransacked in an endeavor to find a remedy for exophthalmic goitre—and in vain. Iron, digitalis, quinine, belladonna, ergot, strychnine, arsenic, iodine, veratrum viride, aconite, electricity and nit. glycerine have all been used, lauded on the one hand, rejected on the other. Graefe found it useful only at certain stages, in the milder grades of the disease and contra-indicated in the severer forms. Digitalis has been said to be entirely useless, disturbing the digestion and affording not even temporary relief. There is no specific remedy. Rest is an important factor in the treatment. The general health should be improved,

