

Veins.—All bleeding from the veins and sinuses in bone can be immediately and absolutely certainly arrested by plugging with wax if the periosteum round the hole is completely removed.

CONTROL OF VENOUS AND CAPILLARY OOOZING BY THE USE OF OXYGEN.

Venous bleeding as just stated, commonly occurs in association with capillary oozing, and is often very troublesome in spinal as well as in intracranial operations, especially those at the base of the skull.

This can be rapidly controlled by a single manœuvre, namely the inhalation of oxygen.

METHOD OF OPENING THE SKULL.

I cannot spend time on the various mechanical devices for opening the skull, but as much of the shock depends on the way in which this is effected, I must allude to the principles which I believe govern the opening of the cranio-neural tube at any point. Of these the first is that as far as possible the bone should be divided with as little vertically applied force as possible, and removed with the least possible pressure on the brain and dura beneath. After a long experience of saws, circular or straight, and trephines driven by electromotors. I find that the foregoing principle can be most quickly and readily fulfilled by first removing a trephine disc, then marking with a large saw the area to be removed, and finally cutting away the bone with large bone forceps, all traction being directed outwards. The ill effects of vertical pressure or force are particularly seen when the opening of the skull has been done osteoplastically with the use of the mallet and chisel, and as in very many cases it is not advisable to preserve the bony wall of the skull the chisel need be but rarely used.

Sir Victor then discussed the displacement of the brain which must be resorted to to reach tumors at the base, the procedures necessary for the exploration of the ventricles, and finally certain procedures in the treatment of malignant disease of the encephalon.—Abstracted from *Brit. Med. Jour.*