

## THE SURGERY OF THE HEART.

It is now known that the heart is not exempt from the field of the surgeon's skilled finger. A number of successful operations have been performed on the human heart for the closure of wounds. While this is true, such operative work will not come into general use. Many of these wounds are produced under conditions that render it unlikely that skilled attention could be secured in time to be of any value, and very few members of the medical profession will have the technical skill to cope with such an emergency.

It may be admitted that there is very little future for surgery as applied to diseases of the heart. All the morbid conditions that are found to occur in the interior of the heart, are completely hidden from the surgeon's reach. And the same may be said of pathological changes in the heart muscle.

It is nevertheless, interesting to note that Dr. Alexis Carrel has succeeded in clamping the great vessels of a dog's heart for two or three minutes while he performs an operation on the heart, and that the heart resumes its function.

## DANGEROUS TRADES.

One of the most useful, as it is one of the most humanitarian, of all the directions in which legislators may cast their thoughts is that of devising ways and means of lessening the dangers of life and health of those employed in trades that have as their conduct a special hazard. It is a matter of much gratification that a great deal of progress has been made, but there is much yet to be accomplished.

Constantly one reads of deaths or serious injuries occurring in the process of making some particular article. The total loss of life and injury to health are very great. Workmen die of hardening of the arteries or of neuritis because they are employed in lead works. Others are killed or made blind by the careless way in which wood alcohol is left exposed.

There should, from time to time, be a thorough investigation of the dangers and what experience has discovered as the best methods of avoiding these; and then this should be embodied in up-to-date legislation. All evils cannot be cured by the enacting of laws; but most evils can, at all events, be controlled in this way. Of useful laws it may be said "They are the hangman's whip that keeps the loons in order." In the United States there are manufactured annually 10,000,000 gallons of wood alcohol, and some 3,000 persons are employed in these industries.