

## MINIATURE HAMMERS AND THE SUTURE OF THE BILE DUCTS.

Dr. W. S. Halstead (*Bul. Johns Hopkins' Hosp.*, Vol. IX., No. 6, p. 67, 1898) says that the operation of choledochotomy should never be postponed solely for the purpose of allowing the ducts to become thickened, for the normal duct "can be sutured accurately, almost infallibly, and without danger of leakage or constriction." To facilitate the suture of the bile-ducts Halstead employs miniature hammers, the heads of which vary in diameter from 3 to 17 mm., and they have the handle inserted near one of the heads in order to make easy its introduction and removal. The mode of procedure in suturing the ducts is as follows: Two sutures are introduced to serve as retractors, and the incision into the duct is made between them. When all is ready for uniting the duct, a hammer of the proper size is inserted into the opening. Then, with the very finest of silk and needles, mattress sutures are introduced directly across the hammer-head, uniting the two sides of the incision. These sutures must of necessity go through the duct-wall, but as the contents of the duct are almost always sterile this makes no difference. The hammer is then withdrawn and the sutures tied. The advantages of being better able to control the position of the duct, of more ease in passing the sutures, and of cleanliness, are all manifest to the operator when he uses these hammers.—*American Medico-Surgical Bulletin*, May 25, 1898.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF THE TRENDELENBURG POSTURE DURING ALL OPERATIONS INVOLVING, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THE CAVITIES OF THE MOUTH, NOSE AND TRACHEA.

W. W. Keen (*Dunghlison's Coll. and Clin. Rec.*, July, 1897) calls attention to the great advantages which may be secured by operating on the tonsil and on the adenoid growths in the pharynx in the Trendelenburg position. This position has also a much wider use in the removal of pharyngeal tumors, naso-pharyngeal tumors, extirpation of the tongue and upper and lower jaws, all operations involving the cavity of the nose, in cleft palate, hare-lip, epithelioma, and other tumors of the lips, roof of the mouth, etc. The advantages of this position are :—1. There is little danger of an aspiration-pneumonia following the operation. 2. A preliminary tracheotomy may generally be avoided, a by no