

SURGERY.

Appendicitis.—N. P. Dandridge writing in the *Lancet-Clinic*, concludes his article by presenting the following conclusions :

1. A considerable number of mild cases may be left to medical treatment.

2. Persistency of symptoms or severity of onset indicate the necessity for operation.

3. If pus is found in an acute case, a limited search for the appendix only is permissible.

4. Chronic cases should be operated on during an attack if necessary, but an operation during an interval is safer.

5. In cases with heavy masses of exudation and adhesions if pus is present, tearing up the adhesions involves great danger of peritoneal infection ; if not present, search for the appendix should be prolonged until it is found.

Poulticing the Ear.—Dr. Albert H. Buck, writing in the *International Medical Magazine*, says that while heat is one of the best remedies in painful inflammation of the middle ear, and the poultice the best method of applying heat ; as usually put on, the poultice has little effect.

What should be done, he says, is to first fill the external auditory canal with lukewarm water, the head resting on the unaffected side upon the pillow. Then a large flaxseed poultice is applied over the ear, as hot as can be borne. The column of water is thus kept warm, and acts as a conductor between the poultice and the inflamed surface. —*Medical Record*.

To Get Rid of the Odour of Iodoform.—Dr. W. Washburn, of this city, writes, *apropos* of a recent item on the deodorizing of iodoform : "In the *Medical Summary* for June, 1893, an article by myself gives an easier and more convenient method. It is there stated that both ether and chloroform are solvents of iodoform, and will remove every trace of it and its odour if the hands are washed with a trifle after washing with soap and water. The hands have a peculiarly clean feeling after using chloroform, dry instantly and require no further washing. As nearly every physician carries ether or chloroform in his satchel, and as turpentine would be an additional burden, there is

this also in favour of these drugs, they are always at hand. When clothing has been saturated with iodoform, the proper thing is to first apply chloroform to the spot and rub it in, then wash with castile soap and water, and finally apply chloroform—or ether will do as well if chloroform is not at hand. Any seams coming within the space to be cleaned will require careful attention, just as the nails will if the hands are to be deodorized. The proper way for the nails, is to dip a bit of soft wood (a match whittled flat is handy and efficient) in chloroform, and with this clean under the nails. I have derived great comfort from applying this method in daily practice."—*N. Y. Med. Record*.

Trigger-Finger in a Child of Seventeen Months. Dr. Von Genser. (*Wiener klin. Wochen. schr.*)—In a boy seventeen months old, Von Genser found that the ring finger of the right hand when bent could not be straightened without some force, the resistance apparently lying in the first interphalangeal joint, motion not being painful. The mother noticed it soon after birth, and the condition, therefore, is apparently congenital. He could find only two cases in the literature of the subject at so early an age—one being in a girl five and a half years old, the other in a three-months-old boy, both being congenital and affecting the middle finger.—*International Medical Magazine*.

Guaiaicol in the Treatment of Bone Tuberculosis.—Griffith (*American Surgery and Gynecology*, vol. iii., No. 9) states that :

Guaiaicol, where used locally or internally, is a powerful antiseptic in tuberculosis.

Tuberculous patients to whom guaiaicol is given internally show marked increase in weight, strength, and appetite, if the use of the drug is continued long enough.

The exhibition of guaiaicol in joint or bone tuberculosis should be continued through a long period of time.

Guaiaicol, unlike its close relation, creosote, is non-irritating to the stomach, and is well borne for a long period.

Lastly, guaiaicol is a great aid to the surgeon in the treatment of all forms of tuberculosis of joints or bone.—*Therapeutic Gazette*.