

ver there is a striking improvement in many of the cases; thus, 83 per cent. of all the cases from Kocher's clinic were cured; 73 per cent. of primary cases were healed; 92 per cent. of cases complicating simple goiter, and 100 per cent. of vascular goiters. The time for recovery varied greatly, especially for the cardiac and ocular symptoms. As to the method, Kocher recommends repeated operations with the patient under close observation and with the aid of medical treatment. Distinct vascular symptoms should at once indicate surgical measures. In long-standing cases the organic changes present in the heart and the fear of hypothyroidism necessitate great care.

Professor Halsted, of Baltimore, in the discussion following the symposium, spoke of his surprisingly good results in 90 cases treated surgically (mortality 2.2 per cent.). C. H. Mayo, of Rochester, Minn., reported 176 cases of hyperthyroidism operated on with a mortality of 5.7 per cent.

C. P. H.

## PATHOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF J. G. ADAMS.

E. H. HENSTEEN. "Spontaneous Rupture of the Aorta." *Norsk. Mag. for Laegevidenskaben*, 1907, p. 506.

Much doubt has been thrown on the possibility of Spontaneous Rupture of the Arteries in a healthy subject. Cases occasionally occur in which, by the release of the supporting framework about the artery, an aneurysm has developed. These are particularly noted after gun shot wounds, and, occasionally, consequent to an infective process in the neighbouring tissue. That it is possible, however, to bring about a dilatation of the vessels, and even rupture by the high arterial tension in a healthy vessel appears most unusual. One cannot but believe that there must be in these cases a great disproportion between the expelling power of the heart and the strength of the vessel wall, and such a condition cannot be considered as normal.

The author reports a case of a well built and healthy workman of 23, who took up his military service as a recruit. For some days before, he had taken alcohol in excess, and then marched ten miles in four hours. He complained of severe pains in the chest while under way, but examination gave negative findings, and he was again sent to work. During his work, he suddenly fell over and died. At autopsy the left heart was somewhat hypertrophied, but was, otherwise, normal, save for a small calcified plaque below the aortic cusps. One inch above the aortic ring was a rectangular rupture in the posterior part of