

GYNECOLOGY.

ABRASION OF THE OS AND CERVIX.

Dr. Braxton Hicks writing in the *Obstetrical Journal*, on some points in the clinical pathology of uterine disease, selects the subject of Abrasion of the Os and Cervix Uteri. Dr. Hicks deals especially with the reflex symptoms associated with this condition, pointing out their extensive character external to the uterus, and then examining more closely the effect of irritation of nerves on the uterus itself. To illustrate his observations, he refers to the effects produced by a syphilitic fissure of the tongue. The patient complains of the enlargement of the tongue, the papillae on that side are red, enlarged, and projecting, highly tender and sensitive, and it is seen that the tongue is swollen. If the surgeon touch the fissure with nitrate of silver, some pain ensues, but after a short time it subsides, and in about half an hour only a slight remnant exists of what was before so troublesome. Here the nerve irritation was the cause of reflex engorgement of the vessels of the tongue, and of the irritation of the rest of the nerve supplying the part. In the same way irritation of the superficial terminations of nerves at the cervix uteri in cases of abrasion produces similar effects; and the relief afforded by a few applications of nitrate of silver is in many cases most marked. The author then refers to the bearing which these points have on so-called chronic inflammation of the womb. As the result of denudation of the os uteri, we find enlargement of the vessels, high sensitiveness, and all the symptoms generally said to attend chronic metritis, and yet these symptoms disappear rapidly on the removal of the exciting cause. Dr. Hicks has seen a uterus presenting all these characters restored to nearly its normal state by two applications of nitrate of silver, when every constitutional remedy had been previously tried.

PERCHLORIDE OF IRON.

Dr. Playfair relates a case of post-partum hæmorrhage, in which the injection of perchloride of iron saved the patient's life. But the case is also intended to point out one of the dangers of the practice. Alarming symptoms supervened on the third day, the explanation of which was to be found in the fact that the perchloride at once coagulated all the blood and coagula with which it came into contact, and these in due course began to decompose, and septic absorption took place. By the finger and the intrauterine injection of Condy's fluid, these coagula were gradually broken down and removed, and all unfavourable symptoms soon began to disappear.

CONTINUOUS DISCHARGES AFTER DELIVERY.

Dr. Wiltshire refers the causation of continuous discharges after delivery to subinvolution of the womb, and thinks the placental site is specially the seat of disease in such cases. In the preventive treatment, prohibition of too early rising is the first thing, and the second is that all lying-in patients should be well fed. To promote the process of involution, the recumbent posture, an abdominal binder, a generous diet, and ergot

combined with steel are recommended. Some cases improve wonderfully with quinine, others with arsenic. Hip-baths are also useful, and the French and German mineral waters are not without considerable value in certain cases.

UTERINE EPILEPSY.

According to Mr. Lawson Tait, uterine epilepsy is one of the most frequent of nervous diseases influenced by menstrual irregularities. Uterine epilepsy may be induced by the normal functional changes at the two extremes of menstrual life, and may occur from accidental disturbance between these two periods. The most common variety is the moliminal; it is almost invariably due to a deficient development of the uterus and its appendages. The climacteric form is more unfavourable in its prognosis. The third class of cases may be subdivided into those due to uterine atrophy from some central or general cause, and those due to superinvolution as the direct result of pregnancy.

SURGERY.

OLEATE OF MERCURY IN SYPHILIS.

Mr. Berkeley Hill says he has employed the oleate of mercury in a large number of cases with the following results: In the first place, if continuously applied, it quickly produces the usual effects of mercury on the system, and if used in sufficient quantity causes salivation. Secondly, it is apt, in delicate, fair-skinned persons, to excite violent smarting pain, which, though rarely lasting more than half an hour, if so much, is enough to disgust them with the remedy. The irritation may soon cause erythema and slight vesication, these being the most serious local effects noticed by Mr. Hill. To avoid these undesirable occurrences Mr. Marshall, who first suggested the remedy, has devised three preparations of different strengths, containing twenty, ten, and five per cent. of peroxide of mercury respectively: to the weakest dilution ten per cent. of morphia is added. With one or the other of these preparations the application of this form of mercury can be continued on even very sensitive skins. When used for inunction, about a scruple or half a drachm of the twenty per cent. jelly should be rubbed gently into the flank till it is absorbed by the skin, which occurs in about eight or ten minutes, leaving the skin almost dry and not greasy. This may be repeated once or twice in twenty-four hours, of course changing the site of the inunction each time. The anointed part may be washed next day without fear. This quantity usually causes swelling and slight soreness of the gums in a week, if anointed once a day, or in four days, if employed twice daily. He has found the ten per cent. preparation most useful as an adjuvant to the ordinary treatment by iodide of potassium internally or for persons whose stomachs do not bear mercury.

The great advantage of the oleate over other forms of mercury, when externally applied, lies in the rapidity of its absorption. When the twenty per cent. form is smeared as a cosmetic over syphilitic papules or stains it is remarkable

how rapidly the papules sink down and grow pale.

Again, it is of great service in fissures of the fingers about the nails or palms, the weaker preparations being employed at night and the hands covered with wash-leather gloves. Gloves should also be worn out of doors, the cracks being closed with court-plaster and collodion.

As a parasiticide the oleate has proved exceedingly valuable. In the hands of Mr. Hill success has not followed the use of the oleate in non-syphilitic affections, diseases of the joints, or in inflammatory affections.

The formula for the preparation of this substance is given as follows:—

For the 20 per cent. solution, stir ten drachms of oleic acid in a mortar, while two drachms of precipitated peroxide of mercury are gradually sprinkled into it, and triturated frequently during twenty-four hours, until the peroxide is dissolved, and a gelatinous solution formed.—*The Practitioner*.

TREATMENT OF NÆVI

Dr. Jacob Geiger (*The American Practitioner*), treated a male child, aged nine months, who had at birth a 'mother's mark' on his perineum and over the pit of his stomach. They were at first flat, but slightly elevated spots, and very small. When the patient was about six months old, however, the tumours took on a very rapid growth; that on the perineum occupying not only the entire perineum, but a portion of the scrotum also, while that on the abdomen was an inch in diameter. The perineal nevus was kept so constantly irritated by the child's diaper, his urine, and his faeces, and having on more than one occasion bled considerably, he advised an operation for its cure. The mother positively refused her consent to any other procedure than one which consisted in some external application. He determined therefore, to try the methodical use of Monsell's solution to both the growths. Making a mixture of equal parts of the solution of persulphate of iron and glycerine, he painted not only the nævi themselves thoroughly with this, but he applied it also for some lines beyond the healthy skin, and directed it to be repeated twice daily. In a week both tumours had diminished appreciably in size; and in less than one month from the date of the first application of the iron they had disappeared altogether.

TREATMENT OF PHYMOSIS.

Dr. R. W. Taylor treats phymosis caused by chancroidal ulcers by frequent injections thrown in means of a syringe having a nozzle three inches long and nearly flat, being less than one-eighth of an inch in diameter. The fluid escapes through five apertures on each side as well as at the end of the nozzle. The most useful injection is two drachms of fluid carbolic acid to half a pint of water. This should be injected six or eight times daily during the period of acute inflammation, after the discharge has been cleared away by injections of tepid water. When the inflammation subsides, the strength of the lotion should be reduced considerably; and, as soon as the swelling