

reduced from his own experience. He advised pressure, heat, and cold for bleeding wounds, and these failing, torsion or ligation of the vessels.

He held the wounds of the small intestines were mortal, but a person might recover from wounds of the large bowel. These he said might be sutured. It was his practice to leave the sutures hanging out and the wound open till the sutures came away. If bowel protruded through the opening it should at once be reduced.

He also gave a good description of necrosis of bones, and the treatment of the sinuses that are caused in this way. For hernia of the brain he recommended reduction, and the protection of the opening by a thin plate of wood or lead.

He was familiar with trephining, and for the operation preferred the gauge, but also used the chisel and mallet. So Yperman may be ranked with the great men that have made medicine and surgery what they are to-day.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STATISTICS.

The fact that the 30,000 blind represented in the returns of the United States had on the average been blind for 16 years makes plain the gravity of this misfortune. Although the risk of blindness in infancy, childhood, or youth is relatively small, yet, as shown by these figures, the complete elimination of that risk would reduce the blind population by nearly one-third. Similarly, the elimination of the risk of blindness during the early or middle years of adult life would reduce the blind population by nearly one-half, while the elimination of the high risk in old age would cause a reduction of only one-fifth in the number of existing cases. Of course, the earlier the age at which the sight is lost, the greater the magnitude of the misfortune; loss of sight in infancy means a life of blindness, while loss of sight in old age ordinarily means only a few years of that affliction. For this reason the increase in individual happiness and the benefits to society in general that would accrue from a successful campaign against blindness in early life would obviously be vastly greater than would result from a corresponding reduction in the blindness occurring in old age. In this connection it is significant that since 1880 there has been a distinct decrease in the proportion of blind who lost their sight in infancy. In 1880 persons who became blind before completing their first year of life formed 15.3 per cent. of the total reporting, as compared with only 11.6 per cent. in 1910. This decrease is explained largely by the great progress made toward preventing blindness among newborn infants through the use of the Credé method of prophylaxis for ophthalmia neonatorum, which was discovered in 1884.