

lessening the danger of hemorrhage, and perhaps also that of acute thyroidism. This latter danger, is, I believe, the greater of the two, and for this reason the gland should be freely exposed before attempting its removal, and free drainage should be provided.

The treatment of essential epilepsy by resection of the cervical sympathetics has not been attended by sufficient success to warrant the belief that much amelioration will result from it. The reports of cases operated on vary so much, that one unconsciously feels that the reporters in many cases, are not unbiased. In the cases that have been followed for years after the operation, a return of the attacks has been the rule, just in fact, what one would expect where the procedure is lacking in the pathogenic basis.

The excellent experimental work of Carroll has given rise to great advances in surgery of the arteries and veins. Many investigators have now been able to transplant kidneys, thyroids, etc., and it is difficult to say to what extent these experiments may benefit the human being. Arteries are now sutured when injured, and it is found that they heal quite readily. In January, 1903, I closed a small transverse wound of the femoral artery with fine silk sutures, and it healed perfectly, with apparently no thrombus, as the tibials pulsated normally afterwards. The patient, a farmer, lived for about two and a half years, doing his ordinary work, and died from a lightning stroke.

The improved method of treating aneurism by opening the sack, removing the fibrin and clots, closing the vessel openings by sutures, and then obliterating the sack, is now generally employed by surgeons. The sacciform aneurism may be cured by this, the Matas operation, without destroying the usefulness of the vessel. In fusiform aneurism, Halsted has devised a silver band with which he contracts the lumen of the vessel, without completely cutting off the circulation. His experience with this method has been encouraging.

For many years, only the simplest operations were attempted in the thoracic cavity. Now, however, if there is a wound of the heart or lungs, the injured part is exposed and the wound sutured.

We have learned that these tissues heal readily, provided that there be no infection, or infection of a mild grade only. During the last few years numerous cases have been reported where the heart has been successfully sutured, and indeed in many of these cases the patient was in a very dangerous state before the operation.