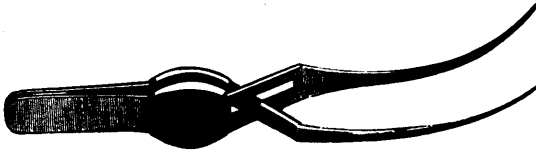


HÆMOSTATIC FORCEPS.

Under the name of Hæmostatic Forceps, Dr. Oscar H. Allis, Jefferson Medical College (*Col. and Clin. Record*), introduces to the medical profession an instrument that he has devised for the arrest of hemorrhage during operations. The instrument consists of two blades, under the command of a spring; one of the blades is needle-



pointed, and can be readily thrust beneath bleeding tissues, which done, the grasp of the hand is removed, and the bleeding vessels left under the control of the instrument. As an illustration of their use, we may take the removal of the mammary gland. In this operation we usually have no large vessels to tie, yet the bleeding from many small orifices is often so troublesome that the operator is embarrassed, while the patient is not infrequently reduced to a condition of critical prostration. To have an instrument that is simple of construction, easily managed, instantaneous in its action, and one that will be generally useful, is certainly a consideration of no small moment. Such an instrument he has found this to be. He has used them very generally for the last six months, in private and hospital work, and feels that once in the hands of the profession, they will not soon be set aside.

The delay in applying a ligature is often a great annoyance. The operator feels that "too much blood is being lost," and while some vessels are being controlled by compression, he secures slowly, one by one, the larger vessels. Just this condition of affairs may be easily and promptly met by these forceps. As each vessel spirts, an instrument point is thrust beneath it, and the spring secures it against further leakage. One by one may be put on, until the number of instruments is exhausted, when the ligature may be applied to each at leisure. Often the grasp of the instruments are such that if they are allowed to remain a few minutes, their removal will not be followed by hemorrhage.

He has used the instruments for some time, and, while he cannot recommend them for every emergency, still he has employed them under so many and diverse circumstances, that he feels that the variety now made will meet the wants of the general surgeon, as no instrument hitherto devised will do. Several varieties are made, one of which consists of two needle blades. This instrument has a more general application than any single instrument. Surgeons not infrequently find, in the course of an operation, that blood will well up

from a considerable area. To catch up a part with the tenaculum and tie does no good; what is needed is to embrace the whole in a compressing band. For just such emergencies this instrument is happily fitted. It is grasped, the needles made to separate, to straddle the bleeding spot, and the work is accomplished.

ANTIMONY IN SKIN DISEASES—Dr. Morris, in the *Brit. Med. Journal*, gives some of the more important diseases in which he had used the drug, leaving a more complete and detailed account for another opportunity.

Eczema.—It is now several years since my colleague, Dr. Cheadle, pointed out to me the value of antimony in the treatment of the acute form of this disease. In the majority of the cases which have come under my care, its beneficial effect has been both marked and rapid. In the acute general eczema of adults, which usually commences somewhat suddenly by heat and burning on the flexor surfaces, and on other characteristic positions, and is soon followed by abundant exudation of clear fluid, and in the form known as eczema rubrum, I generally begin with four or five minims of the vinum antimoniale three times a day, increasing the dose gradually up to seven minims. After a few doses the exudation ceases, and the local irritation is much relieved; but, in order to prevent a relapse, it is necessary to continue the treatment until all traces of the eruption have disappeared. In acute eczema of children, the dose should be in proportion to the age of the child—half a minim or less up to six months, and one minim or less up to a year. As a rule, I have found both children and adults bear these quantities well, neither sickness nor diarrhœa being produced. In the case of aged persons, however, the dose should not exceed three or four minims to begin with, as diarrhœa may result from the administration of a greater amount.

In the subacute forms, both of children and adults, similar doses, but continued for a longer period, are necessary. In chronic eczema, especially when localised, the use of antimony is less often successful; but even in this troublesome form, it relieves the acute exacerbations, and is occasionally followed by cure when other methods of treatment have failed.

In eczema impetiginodes of children, I have noticed little benefit from the drug till the scabs have been removed, and formation of pus checked by local treatment. Simple impetigo contagiosa from a local cause is not included in this category.

In the various forms of so-called lichen that occur in children, I have found antimony in the previously mentioned doses of the greatest value in relieving the irritation—a feature in which it resembles arsenic.