

slime in the stools. The conjunctivæ were tinged yellow, and night blindness was complained of. The abdomen was much enlarged, and contained a small amount of fluid; a tumor (the spleen) extended from the left costal margin, and an inch below the umbilicus, and as far as the median line; it was somewhat movable, with a hard and smooth surface; the notch could be felt about an inch above the umbilicus. The tumor was painful, particularly during movement, and the patient himself said that he would rather die than remain burdened with his disease. The liver dulness was normal; the urine contained a slight amount of albumen, but no casts. Heart action weak, but normal. As before stated, the man was first treated in the medical wards, and there was some relief of the abdominal dropsy; the tumor continued painful. Quinine, arsenic, and iodide of potassium were given internally, and mercurial ointment was rubbed over the spleen. After two months of this treatment a very small diminution was recorded; but the man was not satisfied, and begged for removal of the tumor. The dangers of the operation were fully explained, and the patient remained firm in his determination to undergo it, merely stipulating that if he died his body was to be removed by Hindoos. I accordingly undertook to operate, and performed the operation on Aug. 14th, 1888, Surgeon-Major Banks and Surgeon Dimmock being present. A free abdominal incision was made, and the very free oozing stopped before opening the abdominal cavity. When this was done the interior was well illuminated by the electric light and the spleen examined. The hand was then carefully passed round in order to ligature the splenic vessels. While doing this adhesions were felt between the diaphragm and the spleen during their separation, which was most cautiously done. Hemorrhage to an alarming extent suddenly occurred, the ligature was applied as rapidly as possible, but not before a considerable quantity of blood had been lost. The separation and delivery of the spleen were thus completed without difficulty. The peritoneal cavity having been cleansed and the

pedicle inspected, the wound was closed and dressed with dry dressings. A saline injection was introduced into the right basilic vein, as the patient was in a rather critical condition. For a time he rallied, but became again collapsed, and died the same evening. Examination of the spleen showed that it was a suitable one for removal. It was extremely hard, and much pigmented; there were some rents in the capsule where adherent to the diaphragm. Post-mortem examination showed that the pedicle was safely secured; but there had been considerable oozing from the diaphragm, and ten ounces of blood were present in the abdominal cavity. It is not such an easy matter, as would appear from Sir Spencer Well's case, to successfully pass the ligature without causing injury to the vessel or the organ itself, and very great care is required in this procedure. Should such injury occur, the bleeding is not easily controlled.

ON THE TREATMENT OF UTERINE TUMORS BY ELECTRICITY.

BY THOS. KIETH, M.D., LL.D.

Dr. Kieth states that he witnessed the experiments made by Sir J. Y. Simpson. In fact, he administered the chloroform during the operations. In those cases two steel needles the thickness of a No. 6 catheter and eight inches long were thrust fearlessly into the tumor, and the interrupted current turned on and allowed to pass for half an hour. After the treatment two plasters were placed over the openings made by the needles, and the patient allowed to get up and go home. The fatal results of these cases made a very deep impression on the doctor, and since those days he has carefully watched the various attempts that have been made to treat fibroid tumors by electricity. He believes that Dr. Kimball and Dr. Cutter certainly cured some of their cases but his early impression of the risk of inserting large needles through the peritoneum is too great to think of adopting this method. Dr. Keith has had cases of fibroid tumors under his care every day of his life, and he has tried every known means for their cure, but has only met