

experience. Full consideration is given to the hydrochloric acid question as a factor in the pathology of stomach diseases, the latest views having been incorporated by the editor. Particular attention has been accorded disturbances of motility, and their influence in the disturbances of secretion. It is evident that careful study has been devoted to the subject of impairment of the absorptive powers, and the significance of gas-fermentation has been emphasized. The eminent editor, a recognized authority on diseases of the stomach, has added to the already excellent German text his own extensive experience, bringing the work in accord with our present knowledge. We are confident that for scientific excellence and completeness, as well as for mechanical perfection, this work stands unrivalled.

SURGICAL HINTS.

A plaster cast can easily be removed with a knife if the line of incision has been beforehand well saturated with ordinary vinegar, which softens the plaster.

The ordinary washing soda solution in which instruments are boiled will entirely ruin aluminum instruments, and hence should not be used for sterilizing them.

Plaster of Paris dressings that are liable to be moistened by secretions from a wound, as, for instance, in the treatment of compound fractures or of excisions, where a fenestrum is made, can be nicely protected by painting the exposed parts with melted paraffine.

In children prone to the development of so-called scrofulous glands of the neck, it is a mistake, unless they rapidly disappear under the influence of local and general treatment, to await the formation of abscesses. The latter cause more marked cicatricial deformity than does proper incision with enucleation, and there is always a possibility of systemic infection from the abscess.

In a case of gonorrhea in the male, a chill occurring without swelling of the external organs strongly suggests the possibility of prostatic abscess. Always examine by the rectum, and if the gland is large and tender, and hard though elastic, little time should be wasted before opening the perineum. The old method of opening through the rectum with a trocar is a bad one, because it is unclean and liable to result in the formation of urethro-rectal fistula, and because the abscess cannot be incised and drained as widely as by the perineal route.—*International Journal of Surgery.*