

of greatest strain the rupture will occur. After the first rupture waves of oscillation will occur, and these may increase the injury. If detachment of the dura mater can be caused by contrecoup, as some observers have affirmed, it should be the result of exhaust or suction at the moment when the brain recedes from the inner surface of the cranium. This so-called contrecoup detachment of the dura mater is said to occur only in the squamous region, where the dura mater is not so strongly attached to the bone as in other regions.—F. J. ALLEN, M.A., M.B., in *Birmingham Medical Review*.

Abscess of the Pancreas: Operation.—

Walsh (*Med. News*, December 30th, 1893) reports the case of a married woman, aged 47, who for six months had suffered from sharp burning pains and tenderness in the epigastrium. On examination her abdomen was distended and tender: there was an area of dulness extending from the ensiform cartilage half way to the umbilicus, and reaching to the left costal arch. She was extremely emaciated, and for a month had suffered from diarrhoea and vomiting, latterly the calls to stool being very frequent. Her temperature was normal: the pulse was small, rapid and wiry; the tongue was dry and thickly coated: the stools were watery, yellowish-grey, and offensive: the vomited matter was greenish and offensive. An exploratory operation was undertaken, with a view to assist the diagnosis, and on passing the hand into the abdominal cavity a fluctuating mass could be felt behind the greater curvature of the stomach. This was exposed and opened, a pint of pus, together with portions of the pancreas and a curd-like substance being evacuated; at the bottom of the abscess cavity softened remains of the body and tail of the pancreas were found and removed: this was followed by pretty free hemorrhage, so the cavity was firmly packed with iodoform gauze. The wound was dressed in the usual way, and a bandage firmly applied. During the first four days the patient was fed by the bowel: on the fifth day the gauze packing was removed; on the eighth day the stitches were removed: the fistulous track was now well established, and the abscess cavity was reduced to about one fourth of its former size. On the eleventh day the patient left the hospital.

Ichthyol Suppositories in the treatment of Prostatitis.—No. 26 of the *Centralblatt f. Klin. Med.* of last year contains a paper by Dr. A. Freudenburg on this method of treating prostatitis, a method, by the way, which is not calculated to be of any use in cases of uncomplicated hypertrophy of the prostate. Dr. Freudenburg's patients, some thirty or forty in number, suffered from prostatitis arising from various causes, and were all relieved of their sufferings in a very short time. The treatment, which, when necessary, was supplemented by local treatment of the urethra, commenced with suppositories containing 4½ grains of ichthyol, the dose of which seldom exceeded 10 grains. Latterly ½ to ¾ of a grain of iodoform was added, care of course being taken to avoid intoxication from too long a use of that drug. As a rule two suppositories a day were used, one in the morning after defecation and the second at bedtime. Did a second motion during the day necessitate it, a third suppository would be applied. It was found that the mass of swollen fat containing the ichthyol was not completely absorbed even in ten or twelve hours, and Dr. Freudenburg lays great stress on the fact that the ichthyol must be intimately mixed with the cocoa butter and not exhibited in hollow suppositories, or great irritation of the mucous membrane of the bowel will be caused.

R Ammon. sulfo-ichthyol. .grs. 4½—9—11¼.

Ol. cacao.grs. 30—40.

Misce exactissime f. suppositorium.

— *Provincial Medical Journal*.

Personals.

Dr. Bray, of Chatham, spent a short time in Philadelphia. He was the guest of Dr. Osler, of Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Chas. O'Reilly, of the General Hospital, has returned from Savannah, Ga., quite recovered from his recent illness, and has resumed his duties.

Dr. Harris, of Brantford, is at present in New York city, where he expects to remain for some time in hospital attendance and special surgical work.