

ing toe-nail, which he has employed with excellent results in all of his cases. After thorough cleansing of the nail, a solution of gutta serena 10 parts, in 80 parts of chloroform, is applied with a brush to the interstices between the nail and the granulations. This is repeated several times on the first day, and subsequently at longer intervals. By exercise of care and patience it will be found that the nail is gradually lifted from the underlying parts, and can then be removed without pain with the scissors. If a properly fitting shoe is worn no recurrences need be apprehended. The solution applied in this manner exerts a double effect, the chloroform is anæsthetic, and the gutta serena acts mechanically, forcing its way between the granulations and the nail, and finally liberating it from its abnormal position. — *Gaz. des Hôpitaux*, 1887.

INTRA-MUSCULAR INJECTIONS OF MERCURY IN SYPHILIS. — Mr. Astley Bloxam, Surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital, and Lecturer in the School, discussed this subject some time ago, before the Medical Society of London.

This method of treatment is very largely practised in Germany, different preparations being used. Some inject a preparation of calomel in glycerine (1 in 10); some use the calomel simply suspended in water, shaking the bottle well before filling the syringe. A solution of the perchloride is also used.

Mr. Bloxam finds a solution of sal alembroth most satisfactory, and in no case followed by abscess, after proper cleansing precautions were taken.

The solution contains perchloride of mercury and ammonium chloride; 10 drops containing one-third grain of the perchloride. He injects this deeply into the substance of the buttocks once a week, changing sides at each injection. The primary sore had generally healed up by the second injection, and the secondary symptoms soon were overcome, only the throat and glands then giving evidences of the disease. At this stage he injects only once a fortnight, and later, only once a month, continuing the treatment thus for a year or eighteen months, some eight or ten grains of the salt sufficing for the whole course of treatment. The advantages claimed are great promptness in action, the knowledge of exactly what amount of mercury is being absorbed at any given time, and the patient's freedom from the gastric derangement apt to follow administration of the drug by the mouth. The pain of injection is slight. The solution must be deposited well in the substance of the muscle, beyond the fascia and cellular tissue overlying the muscle; otherwise abscesses are more likely to form.

THE operative treatment of separation of the Abdominal Parietes following Laparotomy.

R. Chrobak (*Internat. Klin. Rundschau* 1887, Nos. 44 and 45), remarks that bandages and supports are by no means satisfactory in the treatment of the occasionally enormous hernias which appear at the seat of the laparotomy wounds; nor is excision of the superfluous skin successful in giving permanent relief.

Chrobak has operated upon two cases with complete success. He divides the thin skin together with the peritoneum, the latter is immediately sutured. The superfluous skin is resected, and all fat and connective tissue down to the sheath of the recti muscles is dissected away. By means of strong sutures penetrating not only the sheaths but the muscular substance also, the diastasis is obliterated. A small drainage tube is placed in the wound and the skin is sutured.

Maydl has operated upon several cases in a similar manner; he splits the sheaths of the two recti muscles and unites the sheaths and the muscles of the two sides separately to each other. — *American Journal Medical Sciences*.

Obituary.

Dr. CARRITT, recently the Senior Physician and Surgeon in Nova Scotia, died at Dartmouth, on the 31st day of October last. He was born in the county of Lincolnshire, England, on the 26th of July, 1800, graduated at Edinburgh in 1826, married Miss Harriet Peacock, of that city, and came to Nova Scotia the same year (1826). He commenced the practice of his profession in Halifax, and subsequently removed to Truro. In 1842 he settled in Guysboro where he continued his professional labors until 1884, in which year, in consequence of the death of his wife and failing health, he was induced to retire from practice. His remaining days were spent in Dartmouth with his daughter, Mrs. Robert Cutler. Two sons and three daughters survive him.

Dr. Carritt, while well known to some of the older practitioners of the Province, was unknown, except by reputation to most of those who commenced their career within the last quarter of a century, but all who were brought in contact with him, either socially or professionally, entertained the highest respect for him, both as a man and a practitioner of ability and extended experience. He was a man of literary tastes and desired to impart a like spirit into the minds of those with whom he was brought into contact.

About the time he went to Guysboro, "Mechanics' Institutes" were doing good work in England and America; and although the field for imparting to others the mental tastes he himself possessed, was very limited, he organized such an institution, and was thus enabled to perform educational and literary work for the locality in which he had cast his lot. For 42 years he resided in the shire town of Guysboro and it may be said that for many years he had the medical charge of the whole, or nearly the whole of that county, and had to grapple alone with all the difficulties and trials connected with a mixed surgical, medical and midwifery practice.

Those were the days when journeys had to be taken on horseback, (over roads and by-ways which could not be travelled in carriages) or in open boats. The older inhabitants of the county can well remember the hardships Dr. Carritt had to endure, and the unselfish and generous spirit he exhibited to the poor farmers and fisherman, whose families he constantly visited and supplied with medicine, when there was not the shadow of a chance of his being remunerated for his services. A similar condition of things existed, largely over the whole province in the first half of the present century. Well educated men, principally from British schools, some of them from the navy and army, occupied the fields. Many of them, metaphorically speaking, *existed, they could not live*. They often wanted the common comforts of life, with hundreds of pounds on their backs. A pound note or a sovereign was a rare sight, almost continually longed for; and their families were often deprived of the educational advantages of other and older provinces or countries. Professional periodicals had no existence. Professional intercourse and consultation were beyond their reach. The public, of the sparsely populated district where they dwelt, reaped the advantage of their labors, and they themselves were rewarded, when the life here ceased, and the life beyond was entered upon.