

A NEW OPERATION FOR ANEURISM.

On Monday, October 13, Dr. R. Levis performed, at the Pennsylvania Hospital, an operation so novel in its conception, so plausible in its theory, and, if it turn out successful, so important in its power of saving life, that it seems worthy of editorial notice. The case was one of subclavian aneurism, involving, it is believed at least to the extent of dilatation, the innominate. Tying the artery has been thought by the surgeons who have examined the case to be of more than doubtful expediency, and Dr. Levis has carried out a procedure which he tells us has long been in his mind. As every one knows, the late Charles H. Moore, surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, conceived and put into execution the idea of introducing fine iron wire into aneurisms, to afford a nucleus about which clots should form. His practice has been followed in two cases, by Dr. Donville and Mr. Murray, both English surgeons. If we remember aright, in each of these instances the aorta was the artery involved, and the result was unfavorable.

Dr. Levis, idea consists in the use of horse-hair, with the belief or expectation that it will offer sufficient obstacle to the blood-current to cause coagulation, and at the same time, being animal in its nature and not apt to undergo rapid decomposition, like the catgut ligature will cause no irritation and not give rise to suppuration.

The hoserhair was introduced through a fine sharp needle canula, which was plunged into the sac. No difficulty was experienced in its introduction, and twenty-four feet nine inches of it were safely stowed away in the aneurism. In all probability this mass was driven in great part into the distal portion of the aneurism by the blood-current. Be this as it may, a marked diminution in the force of the pulsation of the aneurism and of the pulse of the wrist was at once induced. This has increased since the operation, the tumor has also gained greatly in solidity, the pain has lessened very much, and no unfavorable symptoms have resulted. As, on the other hand, the radial pulse and the aneurismal throb have never disappeared entirely, and as the dangers of supuration of the sac are not yet past, it is too early to predict the result.—*Philadelphia Medical Times*.

GARMENTS MADE WATERPROOF.

A writer in an English paper says. "By the way, speaking of waterproofs, I think I can give travellers a valuable hint or two. For many years I have worn india-rubber water proofs, but will buy no more, for I have learned that good Scotch tweed can be made entirely impervious to rain; and moreover, I have learned how to make it so; and, for the benefit of your readers, I will give the recipe: In a bucket of water put half a pound of sugar of lead and half a pound of powdered alum; stir this at intervals, until it becomes clear; pour it off into another bucket, and put the garment therein, and let it be in for twenty-four hours, and then hang it up to dry, without wringing it. Two of my party, a lady

and gentleman, have worn garments thus treated in the wildest storms of wind and rain, without getting wet. The rain hangs upon the cloth in globules. In short, they are really waterproof. The gentleman, a fortnight ago, walked nine miles in a storm of rain and wind such as you seldom see in the South; and when he slipped off his overcoat his underwear was as dry as when he put them on."—*The Monthly Mirror*.

ABORTIVE TREATMENT OF BOILS.

The following, applied to boils with a camel-hair pencil or feather, gives great relief in a very short time. The inflamed surface, and a little beyond all around, should be painted with the medicine every fifteen minutes, or as fast as it dries, till a good thick coating covers the part. The throbbing tensive pain and the intense tenderness will be promptly relieved; the redness will subside; the smooth, shining integument will shrink and become wrinkled, and comfort will succeed torment. If the boil is in the first stage, it will disappear without slough. If slough has already formed, it will be quickly separated, and the cure soon complete:

R Tinct. arnicæ, 3j;
Acid. tannici, 3 ss;
Acaciæ pulv., 3 ss. M.

It should be used as soon as prepared.—*C. B. Hall, in Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*.

DIGITALIS IN DROPSY.

A correspondent of the Medical Times and Gazette says:

I am induced to send you the following in hopes that others may follow my example, especially with regard to the uses of the same remedy. The value of digitalis in certain forms of dropsy is well known, and I would hardly venture to put before you the following notes were it not for the plans adopted for employing this remedy.

A woman of middle age was brought to the Hospital after she had been confined to bed for some time for dropsy. According to her own statement she had passed no urine for forty-eight hours previous to admission; certain it is that in eighteen hours after admission only eight ounces could be got away by the catheter. There was a good deal of dropsical effusion under the skin in various parts, especially in the walls of the abdomen and in the breasts. The urine was highly albuminous when tested after withdrawal by catheter. Under the circumstances it was necessary to get the kidneys to act, and I ordered to be applied for her loins, over the kidneys, an ounce of the tincture of digitalis on a piece of lint, to be covered over carefully, and to be renewed in four hours. The result was most satisfactory: urine began to flow profusely, and before long far exceeded the normal quantity. Had it been possible to procure the fresh leaves, I should of course have used them, but they were not to be had.