

are preserved and hardened and there is practically no odor. There is no danger to the dissector, and if ordinary cleanliness be observed, neither the accoucheur nor the surgeon need have any fear of contaminating his patients. On a subject thus prepared there is the greatest possible pleasure in working. Not only has the anatomist the means of refining his knowledge, but the surgeon can perfect his operation and the gynæcologist increase his skill and train his hand and eye for the time of need. Under circumstances such as these no general practitioner, either in the city or country, can excuse himself for want of anatomical information. The outlay is not excessive, and by renewing the alcohol as required, the subject will preserve long enough to give the dissector an opportunity to perform his work at leisure. No man engaged in the practice of medicine should neglect dissecting at least one extremity yearly. It is not alone the inestimable value of such a course from a practical standpoint, but it quickens one's desire for further research, it enlivens one's devotion, it keeps us young in our profession. The man who knows his anatomy is never behind the times. It is not supposed that we should all exhibit the enthusiasm of Haller who dissected four hundred bodies in seventeen years, nor of Berenger who dissected one hundred, nor of Billroth whose constant cry to his students was "anatomy, anatomy, and again anatomy." Nor on the other hand should pressure of professional duties be pleaded as an excuse for neglecting our anatomical studies. Hunter, Sir Astley Cooper and Paget have set us an example in this respect. And when quieting our conscience for this reason we ought to remember the dictum of Richelieu "it is only the busy man who finds time for more work."

E. RYAN.

HYDRAMNIOS AND ITS COMPLICATIONS

WITH REPORT OF THREE CASES.

DROPSY of the amnion or an excessive accumulation of fluid in the amniotic cavity is a condition frequently met with, and easily recognized by the unusual size and permanent tension of the uterine tumor. The mobility of the foetus distinguishes this condition from twin pregnancy, while the softened condition of the cer-