

SURGICAL TREATMENT OF ŒDEMA IN HEART DISEASE.

Borgherini (*Deutsches Archiv. fur Klin. Med.*, LXI., 5-6) relates a case of insufficiency of the semi-lunar valves, with resulting anasarca, which cardiac stimulants, purgatives and diuretics all failed to relieve. He therefore resorted to Traube's method of making incisions, using the strictest antiseptis. Of these incisions four were made in each limb; two of them beside the malleoli, and the others through the calves of the legs. The cuts were about one inch in length, and extended to the subcutaneous tissues. The limbs were afterwards dressed in antiseptic gauze, changed once a day. The œdema in these cases disappears in from twelve to eighteen days, and the heart is greatly relieved, for in cardiac dropsy we have a vicious circle; the cardiac insufficiency which causes the œdema is in turn aggravated by it.

In this case, before its surgical treatment, a fly blister had set up gangrenous erysipelas, with a certain amount of sepsis; hence, the result is the more remarkable.—*Med. R. of R., Jan.*, '99.

TOXICITY OF APPENDICITIS.

Dieulafoy (*Le Progrès Méd.*, November 12, 1898), in the course of a paper read before the Paris Academy of Medicine, speaks of appendicitis as "the great abdominal disease," and says that besides the danger of peritonitis we have to face the possibility of toxæmia. This complication, the existence of which is demonstrable by experiment, may be mild, severe or fatal. The ordinary mild form is revealed by albuminuria and icteric hue. This toxic icterus may or may not portend a severe attack. If the latter result, either the brain or medulla will be attacked, with the clinical picture of a typhoid state. This process of intoxication may be arrested by suppression of the poisonous focus; hence no one should die of appendicitis.—*Med. R. of R., Jan.*, '99.

(*The Lancet*, Nov. 19.)

TOTAL EXTIRPATION OF THE STOMACH.

BY DR. CARL SCHLATTER.

On Sept. 6, 1897, Dr. Schlatter performed the first operation of removing the entire stomach. The patient was a woman aged 55, suffering from carcinoma. The continuity of the digestive tract was maintained by uniting œsophagus