

tremity. The French have called it posterior umbilicus. The situation of the sinus is over the coccyx and always in the median line. It causes irritation and itching and, occasionally, a discharge of pus. A lock of hair is occasionally found in the cavity. The following elements are necessary for its formation: The presence of a congenital dimple, abundant pilous development—hence it is seen only in the adult and almost always in the male sex—insufficient attention to cleanliness. It may connect with the rectum. The following methods of treatment have been employed: Curettage of the sinus; dissecting out the fistulous tract; cutting the sinus along its entire length and stitching the lining membrane to the skin. The walls of the sinus are composed of granulating tissue, not true skin. It is regarded as an imperfection in the development of the embryo.

IMBEDDED RADIUM TUBES IN CANCER; SARCOMA REMAINING CURED NINE YEARS AFTER RADIATION.

By W. J. Morton.—That the alpha, beta, and gamma rays of the radioactive elements are the sole known demonstrable means of effecting a deterrent influence upon the vitality and proliferative power of cancer cells is now established beyond doubt. The action of radiation upon cells is selective, in the sense that normal tissues react in well recognized gradations. As to dose, the radiotherapist has the choice of a small quantity of radioactive substance used over a long period or of a large quantity over a short period. These and various other considerations must be taken into account in imbedding tubes of radioactive elements in cancer tissue. By this method all that is valuable in radiotherapy is retained, while there is an advantage in not being obliged to protect intervening normal tissue, and thus limit a desired dose. Imbedding the tube is an intensive radiotherapy, and must come more and more into practice.

SOME THINGS THAT INFLUENCE THE MORTALITY AFTER PROSTATECTOMY.

By Arthur L. Chute.—The high mortality that follows prostatectomy is considered to be unnecessary, and to depend very largely on the functioning of the kidneys. The first thing urged is that kidneys that are not working well be brought into a condition in which they will act efficiently prior to the operation, and then to avoid injury to embarrassed or susceptible kidneys at the time of operation. He believes that the prognosis as regards recovery from a prostatectomy depends mainly on the renal function.