

33. Scarification of the peritoneum at the seat of coaptation hastens the formation of adhesions and the definite healing of the intestinal wound.

34. Omental grafts, from one to two inches in width, and sufficiently long to completely encircle the bowel, retain their vitality, become firmly adherent in from twelve to eighteen hours, are freely supplied with blood vessels in from eighteen to forty-eight hours.

35. Omental transplantation, or omental grafting, should be done in every circular resection, or suturing of large wounds of the stomach or intestines, as this procedure favors healing of the visceral wound, and affords a protection against perforation.

Operative Treatment of Pulmonary Abscess.

Says *The Lancet* in an editorial, "The success which has so far attended the treatment of abscesses in the lungs by operation constitutes the latter a legitimate department of surgery." Dr. Quincke, of Kiel, reports two cases thus successfully treated during the past year, making with two previous cases, four in all reported. Taking this latter pair of cases first, in one, a young man had a chronic abscess in the lower lobe of the left lung, apparently due to acute pneumonia ten years previously. The abscess was opened, resection of the ribs being performed, and the man recovered so far that he was able to work and feel quite well, but a permanent fistula remained. The inconvenience of this the man himself obviated by making a small tin receptacle, attached to his side holding a little carbolic acid. When examined three years after the operation the lungs expanded equally and the chest was symmetrical except for a slight depression over the site of the operation. There was no expectoration. The importance of obtaining adhesion of the pleural surfaces is shown by the next case, treated in 1877. Here the patient, a woman, aged 26, presented all the clinical signs of a large pulmonary abscess, including the expectoration of a large quantity of foetid pus. An attempt was made to set up an adhesive pleuritis by the injection of iodine into the pleural cavity. This caused pain, and a friction sound was soon heard; but the adhesions gave way soon after the abscess was opened, and purulent pleuritis caused death in three weeks, in spite of incision and injections. The author with his present experience would resect the ribs at the site most convenient, and re-

open the abscess in such a case. It is more difficult to induce firm adhesion of the pleurae, than in the case of the peritoneum, owing to greater disturbances during respiration; and the adhesions must be really firm, in Dr. Quincke's opinion, so as to withstand the elastic retraction of the lungs from the chest wall. Complete success was obtained in two cases treated last year. In the first of these a man, aged 32, after symptoms of apparently an atypic pneumonia of a chronic character, suddenly expectorated a very large quantity of foetid pus, and the clinical signs left no doubt as to the existence of a pulmonary abscess, and not an empyema communicating with a bronchus. Radical measures were adopted; the eighth and ninth ribs were exposed on the right side, by the use of chloride of zinc, after preliminary adhesion. They were then resected for four or five centimetres, and next day chloride of zinc paste was again applied to the bottom of the wound; after a week a capillary thread was introduced, allowing the escape of foetid pus, and the canal thus formed was gradually widened by the thermo-cautery till a proper drainage tube could be passed and the pus evacuated. Within three weeks expectoration ceased altogether, and the man, who had improved daily during this time, convalesced steadily. The right side did not expand quite as fully in the four months after operation, but the patient had gained 46 pounds in weight and felt quite well.

THERAPEUTICS.

Antipyrin in Whooping Cough.

From the action of antipyrin in the calmative influence it exerts on the irritability of the nerve centres, thereby lessening the motive power of the spinal cord, it has, as might be expected, been used with good results in various forms of inco-ordination and spasm, and in none with more notable results than in whooping cough. Dr. Genser of Vienna, to whom seems to belong the credit of the use of this drug in whooping cough, says that he has treated whooping cough by insufflations of benzoic acid, but apart from the difficulty in using it, its principal use was to suppress vomiting; while the average length of treatment was forty-three days. In the remainder of 200 cases, antipyrin was used with results going to show that this remedy not only diminishes the number of spasms, but also their duration and intensity. In most cases