

success. Several successful operations on the human subject are also reported.

RADICAL CURE FOR HERNIA, AT ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL.—This is quite an ordinary operation here. Two principal results are aimed at, first, to secure the sac and ligate it at the internal abdominal rings; and, second, to prevent primary union in the wound, in order to get cicatricial tissue to strengthen the abdominal wall, for it is claimed that with primary union the hernia is very apt to recur. The incision is made just above the inguinal canal, from the internal abdominal ring as far as necessary, which is sometimes to the middle of the scrotum. All structures are divided down to the sac, which is exposed, and completely separated up to the internal ring. The next step is to ligate it. The ligature should go as far into the abdominal cavity as possible. For this purpose the operator puts his finger into the sac and prevents the gut from coming down, and at the same time aids by allowing the ligature to roll off his finger, in getting it up well up on the sac. Before the wound is closed the skin and deeper tissues are united by a row of sutures passing completely round it. The scrotal part of the incision is sewed up closely; the remainder is only partially closed, a space about one-eighth inch wide being left between the lips of the wound. Silver sutures, three or four in number, with leaden buttons and perforated shot are now passed deeply to approximate the remaining part of the opening. The space between the edges of the wound is packed with iodoform gauze down to its bottom. The object of this is to prevent primary union, and so promote the formation of granulation tissue. Iodoform gauze, bichloride gauze, cotton wool and bandages complete the dressing, which is undisturbed for a week.

STOMACH WASHING IN INFANTS.—For some time past this method of treatment of gastro-intestinal diseases in infants has been largely experimented upon, and adopted by some of the leading practitioners of France and Germany. Not a few of the most successful physicians here are warm in its support, and some of those who at its inception opposed it, are now its exponents. It is applicable to all gastro-intestinal disorders—save typhoid—including infantile dyspepsia, cholera infantum and chronic diarrhoea. It is a simple and harmless

measure. A funnel or fountain (graduated) attached to a soft catheter by means of rubber tubing, constitutes the complete apparatus. It is generally believed that antiseptics are useless, and so only warm water is used. It will be readily seen that if the funnel, filled with water, be raised higher than the stomach, the water will flow into it. So by lowering it the tubing is converted into a syphon, capable of withdrawing the fluid. The catheter can only pass into the œsophagus, and should be passed rapidly at first until gripped by the upper œsophageal muscles, which soon relax, after which slight pressure at once places the instrument. Irrigation of the colon is also employed, and would undoubtedly be useful where the morbid condition is in the lower bowel.

INFANTILE DIARRHŒA (*Polyclinic*).—Diarrhœa occurring in infancy is believed to be due to germs of decomposition in the intestinal tract. Antiseptics may not be used of sufficient strength to arrest the process, and are therefore discarded. All kinds of food, and especially those which have been most used by the child are prohibited for one or two days. During this time barley gruel is given, simply to occupy the attention of the digestive organs. The child may drink black tea sweetened with sugar or glycerine. Washing out of the colon is considered imperative. If vomiting be associated, the stomach is washed out with tepid water, and calomel given to clear out the upper bowel. Chronic diarrhœa also yields to this treatment.—J. F. B. R.

ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The discussions by special committees have been arranged as follows:

Medicine—Chairman, Dr. A. McPhedran, Toronto; Dr. Mullin, Hamilton; Dr. Henderson, Kingston; Dr. Gillies, Teeswater. Subject: "The Cardiac Complications of Rheumatism."

Gynæcology—Chairman, Dr. Eccles, London; Dr. A. A. Macdonald, Toronto; Dr. K. N. Fenwick, Kingston; Dr. Mathieson, St. Marys. Subject: "Treatment of Fibroid Tumors of the Uterus."

Surgery—Chairman, Dr. Teskey, Toronto; Dr. Wishart, London, Dr. Groves, Fergus. Subject: "The Cause and Treatment of Carcinoma."