

Tail's Operation.—Dr. WM. GARDNER exhibited the uterine appendages removed from two patients during the past three weeks. In the first case the ovaries were cirrhotic and densely adherent behind a retroflexed uterus. Free bleeding followed the separation of the adhesions, treated by the drainage-tube. The patient had been an invalid for fourteen years from pelvic pain and profuse and painful menstruation, with severe headaches. She is slowly recovering. In the second case, both ovaries were enlarged and cystic, the left the size of a hen's egg; no adhesions. The symptoms were profuse, and painful menstruation and constant pelvic pain. Patient recovered without a single bad symptom. In both cases the abdominal incision was an inch and a half in length only.

Dr. GARDNER also reported that a lady, on whom he had performed ovariectomy in the fourth month of pregnancy, had been confined a week ago, at full term, of a male child weighing ten pounds. The patient was the mother of two children, and had suffered for many years from cough, hæmoptysis, and purulent expectoration. The labor of six hours' duration. It was followed by inertia of the uterus, with alarming hemorrhage. She is now recovering without any complication. The cough and expectoration continue. Dr. Gardner remarked that operative measures were much preferable and safer than the old treatment of tapping the tumor or bringing on premature labor.

Dr. TRENHOLME asked for the symptoms which led to the operation.

Dr. GARDNER replied—Intense pain in pelvis and back, vomiting, and headache. Last pregnancy fourteen years ago, and suffered ever since. Patient was very neurotic.

Dr. MILLS read a paper upon "The Cause of Heart-beat and other Problems in Cardiac Physiology."

Dr. ARMSTRONG congratulated Dr. Mills upon having performed so important a service to science in doing this original work, and also congratulated the Society in being able to receive so valuable a paper.

Dr. STEWART had until now always cherished hard feelings against Mills, Gaskell and the others who had recently overthrown the old cardiac physiology which had appeared so complete. In studying the action of drugs the new researches had had a most unsettling effect upon his views;

but he thought that when the theories advanced by Dr. Mills were formulated the matter would be put on a sound and at the same time simple and comprehensible basis.

Progress of Science.

ON THE USE OF ARSENIC IN CERTAIN FORMS OF ANÆMIA.*

By WILLIAM OSLER.†

In an address last year, Dr. Wilks remarked that in therapeutics we do not so much need new remedies as a fuller knowledge of when and how to use the old ones. I do not know a more striking illustration of this than is afforded by arsenic, a good old remedy, for which an almost new use has arisen in certain cases of pernicious anæmia. The attention of the profession was directed to the subject by Bramwell in 1877, and although various reports bearing witness to the value of this drug have appeared from time to time, the knowledge of its efficacy does not appear to be very widespread, and there are still points in connection with its employment upon which we need information. These, I trust, discussion may bring out, and render clear the direction which future observation should take.

In treating a case of anæmia, it is of the first importance to ascertain, if possible, the cause. For convenience, and until the present complex pathology is simplified, we may classify the anæmias into secondary and primary; the former induced by causes acting upon the blood itself, the latter the result of disturbance in the blood-making organs. This distinction, not always clear, serves to separate two clinical and pathological groups of cases.

The secondary anæmias are the most common, and arise from a variety of causes, as hæmorrhage, prolonged drain of albuminous material in chronic disease, and the action of toxic agents in the blood. In very many of these conditions a return to the normal state follows naturally upon removal of the cause, and the regeneration of the corpuscles may take place with extraordinary rapidity, as after a copious bleeding or a sharp fever; but, as a rule, iron in some form will be found useful or indispensable. In three of these secondary anæmias I have found arsenic very beneficial.

1. *The anæmia of Heart-Disease.*—In chronic valvular trouble we not infrequently meet with an impoverished condition of the blood, which materially aggravates the cardiac distress. The comfort of such patients is in direct proportion to their corpuscular richness, and without any apparent

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