

by the kidneys and so inspissating the blood. He only resorted to bleeding when there was pain, but the relief was then very striking. Dr. Sibson's plan of treatment by the use of ergot unquestionably diminished the size of the tumor, though this was certainly not due to any specific action on muscular fibre in the sac wall, since he had never been able to discover any there.

Dr. Bristowe confined his remarks to treatment, in which he said that he was somewhat of a pessimist. Post-mortem appearances pointed to the fact that the permanently cured cases—*i.e.*, thoroughly filled up with clot—were cases in which aneurysm had not been suspected, and in which the patient had been bed-ridden and dying for weeks of something else. He was rather in favor of the Tuffnell treatment, but he had no faith in the treatment by wire or by galvano puncture. He had never witnessed any benefit from the iodide of potash treatment.

INFLAMMATION OF THE VERMIFORM APPENDIX.

The subject of operative interference in appendix disease was under discussion at the Surgical Society of New York on the 13th November last. Dr. McBurney, who read the paper of the evening, began by stating that his belief that inflammatory affections of the vermiform appendix gave rise to a considerable number of the so-called pericæcal inflammations is now accepted in every part of the medical and surgical worlds, although one still reads of perityphlitis and paratyphlitis, and of intra-peritoneal and extra-peritoneal abscesses. Every case of inflammation of the appendix is sooner or later accompanied by inflammation of the neighboring peritoneum, either on the cæcum, or mesentery, or ileum, etc., but if from the whole list of acute inflammatory affections occurring in the right iliac fossa we set aside those originating in the appendix, how many shall we have left? Very rarely will occur a perforation of the cæcum by ulcer or foreign body, giving rise to a local peritonitis at this point, and traumas from without may accomplish the same result. For all of such causes as compared with inflammations of the appendix, the proportion is as one in one hundred. The observations of the operation table and of the dead-house do not support the idea,