

result of operation, an extremely emaciated woman, sixty-two years of age, who developed pneumonia five days after a systectomy and drainage of hepatic duct. The mortality was considerably higher among males than females, which may be due to many causes; thus, cancer of the pancreas is more frequent in men, they often stand narcosis and manipulation of the peritoneal cavity less well than women, and their general condition often is less satisfactory. Pneumonias generally are right-sided, and are often embolic or a result of direct infection by way of the lymphatic channels. In conclusion, the author draws a comparison between the medical and surgical treatment of cholelithiasis; the former cures 40 per cent of cases; the latter 95-98 per cent.—*Medical News*.

THERAPEUTIC INDICATIONS FOR KEFIR.

L. Hallion (*Presse Medicale*).—In Russia a course of kefir is considered extremely beneficial for the treatment of pulmonary phthisis, as it affords a nourishing article of food, digested and assimilated with extreme ease, and even a specific action on the disease is ascribed to it. In other affections it will be found useful whenever a milk diet is indicated, substituting or combined with the milk. It is particularly valuable in case of defective digestion, in biliary and renal lithiasis, in chronic rheumatism and affections retarding nutrition, anemia, chlorosis, convalescence from acute diseases, etc. Hallion considers it contra-indicated in heart disease, stasis of the portal system, rachitis and obesity. Besides possessing the physiological properties of milk, with superior digestibility, it also contains micro-organisms and diastases to counteract bacteria and pathogenic toxins. The therapeutic indications have been established on this basis, and have been confirmed by experience.—*Jour. Amer. Med. Asso.*

CEREMONIES AT BIRTH AND PUBERTY AMONG THE HOTTENTOTS.

At the onset of labor, says Dr. Girard de Rialle (*La Rev. Medic.*) the women of the neighborhood assemble in the hut and the husband is rigorously excluded. Usually parturition is rapid and easy, but in case of difficulty the mother is given a decoction of tobacco in milk to drink. Immediately after birth the child is first bathed in cow's urine, then rubbed with suet and the juice of the fig-tree, and lastly dusted with a fragrant powder. The event is generally hailed with joy, and it is celebrated by the sacrifice of an ox or sheep for a feast. The birth of twins, far from casting gloom on the father, causes great rejoicing and pride. Only in