

**CAUTERIZING OVARIES INSTEAD OF REMOVING THEM.**—Dr. Pozzi, of Hôpital Broca, *Therap. Gaz.*, has now practised cauterization of painful ovaries for over two years, and considers the plan very successful. In one case, in which he operated upon both ovaries, the woman has since given birth to a child. He performs his laparotomies in the ordinary recumbent position; draws the ovaries out of the abdominal opening. If the ovary is totally diseased, he removes it; but if a part is found to be healthy, he amputates the affected portion, cauterizes the stump, then sews the end with silk. If there are some small cysts, he opens them by touching with the Paquelin point. The ovary being returned to the abdomen, he examines and treats the other in a similar manner. Often as many as six small cysts are opened in this way in each ovary.

**A NEW SYMPTOM OF CANCER.**—G. Bogdan, *Br. Med. Jour.*, relates the case of a woman, aged forty-eight, who suffered from cancer of the stomach. The disease had gone through a long period of latency. The patient presented on each cheek a patch of wine-red discoloration formed by the dilatation of the superficial venules; the stain showed out sharply against the pale yellow of the surrounding skin. On the strength of this symptom alone Bogdan was able to make a diagnosis of probable cancer at a time when there was yet no other manifest sign of that affection. He looks upon such superficial varicosities on the cheeks as a valuable help to the early recognition of certain cancers; he has seen it in about two thirds of the cases of cancer which have come under his observation. He says it is particularly frequent in cases of epithelioma of the stomach and uterus, but less common in malignant disease of other organs.

**MENTHOL IN DIPHThERIA.**—F. Kastorsky, *Br. Med. Jour.*, reports thirty-seven cases of diphtheria (in three adults and thirty-four children) treated and cured by painting with a ten per cent. alcoholic solution of menthol. The paintings (by means of a piece of cotton wool) were usually carried out three times daily. In some cases, however, a single free application was followed by complete disappearance of false membranes within two days. A marked improvement in the patient's

general condition was invariably noticed from the beginning of the treatment. The same simple method was successfully practised by the author in numerous cases of anginas of various forms, and by Trütovsky in a group of cases of scarlatinal diphtheria.

**SINGULTUS.**—In a paper published in the *Physician and Surgeon*, Dr. D. L. Parker reports four cases of persistent singultus and the treatment employed. In each of the cases all the usual and known remedies had been tried without avail. In each case also, although the hiccoughing had gone on to the point of exhaustion of the patient, relief was at once obtained by dry cupping the abdomen, in two cases by ordinary drinking glasses, in the others by a cupping outfit. The author thinks, though we cannot see it as he does, that "the *modus operandi* of this remedy seems to be that by drawing forward a portion of the abdominal wall and thereby tending to enlarge the abdominal cavity, enough force is exerted upon the upper side of the diaphragm, by atmospheric pressure, to overcome its spasmodic action."

**CHEST PAINS.**—Chest pains usually cause great discomfort to a patient, and are not sufficiently appreciated by the physician. Dr. J. K. Crook relates a series of causes in the *American Medico-Surgical Bulletin*, as illustrating the diagnostic value of chest pains. In some cases these pains are reflected from an overloaded or disordered stomach, in some cases it is neuralgia, and in exceptional cases the lungs themselves are at fault. Most persons with pains in the chest think they have some lung or heart disease. Pneumonia causes pain, but the other symptoms make the diagnosis clear. Consumption is not a disease accompanied by pain, and when it does occur it is from continual coughing.

**THE STANDARD DICTIONARY.**—By actual count the Standard Dictionary contains, exclusive of the Appendix, 301,865 vocabulary words and phrases, and the Appendix of proper names, foreign phrases, etc., contains 47,468 entries, making the total vocabulary of the Dictionary 349,333—this after great care has been exercised to exclude all useless words. The immense increase of the vocabulary of the English Language appears from