

In many of the important operations in rectal and anal surgery, he has strong hopes that its proper use will enable us to dispense, in a very great measure, with the use of general anaesthetics.

A short time since he operated by internal urethrotomy on three urethral strictures, very old, and recently causing much urethral and vesical trouble. He first thoroughly cocaineized the canal, by injecting into it three drachms of a four per cent. solution of cocaine, and after waiting fifteen minutes, throwing in an additional amount of water, and had the pleasure of seeing that his friend stood the cutting process with perfect indifference. He informed him that there was not the least pain, though the canal had been very sensitive to the passage of instruments.

It has been used in the operations of phimosis. It will answer better for the adult than for children, in this, as in many other operations.

In division of the contracted frenum a thorough application of the solution or the oleate on absorbent cotton, well pressed against each side, will be all that is necessary, while similar plans will answer for shipping off condylomata.

Preparatory to the cauterization for chancroids and chancres, the local application of a four per cent. solution, or of the oleate, may be made by means of a dossil of absorbent cotton arranged to extend a little beyond the margin of the sore and well pressed into its surface, the latter having been gently dried. The cotton may then be covered with a fragment of surgeons' rubber tissue, and the whole bandaged snugly and kept thus dressed for about five minutes.

Turning our attention next to urethral troubles, we find the agent useful in facilitating our diagnosis, as well as aiding us in reducing the terrors of the surgical treatment. In exploring, with any kind of instrument, the urethral meatus and canal, and in entering the bladder for diagnostic purposes, by way of this canal, we often find ourselves giving great pain, and we also find that these are just the subjects most liable to urethral fever as a result of such explorations. This suffering can certainly be avoided or greatly mitigated by the use of cocaine. *M. d. and Surg. Reporter.*

CONSUMPTION AND LIFE INSURANCE. Dr. Davis, of Cincinnati, in the *Lancet and Clinic* of that city, tells us that notwithstanding the care exercised by examiners, that $\frac{1}{3}$ of all deaths in the insured are from consumption, and that they live out less than one-fifth of their expectancy. As it is becoming better established that consumption is contagious, insurance companies will hereafter take measures to guard against applicants thus endangered. Sixty per cent. of all consumptives show heredity, direct or indirect. Mothers transmit the disease more frequently than fathers, at the rate of 135 to 100. Hence, if the applicant's mother were a con-

sumptive, he is a worse risk than *vice versa*. There exists a universal unwillingness to acknowledgment of consumption in the family. So when the applicant says his father died of "cold" or his mother of "debility," the examiner should suspect these terms to mean phthisis. Since consumption may exist that the most skilful investigator may not discover, consideration of the risk must be postponed should the applicant be suffering from the slightest cough, increased pulse rate or fever. Repeated disorders of digestion should engender suspicion, especially with any loss of weight. A rule among leading insurance companies is to reject an applicant who has had two near relations affected with consumption. The occupation must be carefully considered. The careful selection of lives by insurance companies have reduced their mortality to just one-half of that among the general population.—*St. Louis Med. & Surg. Journal.*

THE USE OF IODOL IN SURGICAL OPERATIONS.—Dr. Gatano Mazzoni calls attention to a new chemical preparation, called Iodol. The substance is a powder of a yellow or grayish brown color, nearly odorless and perfectly tasteless, and has an action very similar to that of iodoform. The observations made upon its effects already exceed two hundred, and the results have been extremely favorable. The remedy may be used in powder, suspended in glycerine as an ointment, or in dilute solution of alcohol and glycerine, the substance being entirely insoluble in water. In venereal disease its effects have been excellent, as also in periadenitis. In abscesses, in which necrobiosis is extensive, the beneficial effect of iodol is manifested in the disappearance of all odor and the rapid disappearance of swelling and accompanying healthy granulations. In indolent ulcers a similar beneficial influence was noted. On the other hand, the remedy is found useless and indeed, harmful in gangrene. Further, it is found to possess the power in a high degree of prompting healthy granulations, as is shown by its use in various forms of lupus and in chronic fungoid inflammation of the joints. The chemical formula of the preparation is not announced in the article calling attention to its merits. —*Berliner klin. Wochenschrift*, Oct. 26, 1885. *Med. News.*

CEREBRAL SURGERY.—In the *Lancet*, May, 1885, p. 881, Dr. W. Macewen records the notes of a man aged 36, who, in August, 1883, fell down stairs, and was rendered unconscious for twelve hours. In November, 1883, the patient was admitted into the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, with impairment of power in the left arm, accompanied by muscular twitchings and pricking sensations in some parts. A lesion was diagnosed in the motor convex of the right ascending frontal convolution, probably due