

Noble of Philadelphia reported at the meeting of the American Gynecological Society, held at Boston last May, 472 cases with 10 suppurations, or less than two per cent. The writer has had three per cent., in nearly 300 cases, consisting of 102 Alexanders, 120 ventrofixations, about 20 ventral and umbilical hernias, and about sixty ordinary abdominal sections.

Would any other material do as well as silk worm gut ? There are three alternative materials, namely, silver wire, silk and chromacized catgut. Silver wire has been used a good deal by Kelly, but it has no advantages over silk worm gut. It is harder, takes longer to tie, and is no easier to disinfect than silk worm gut, and suppuration follows in about the same number of cases. It is possibly more permanent, but then if silk worm gut lasts four years, of which the writer is positive, that is quite as long as is necessary. If silk could be prepared so as not to suppurate any oftener than silk worm gut it would have the great advantage of being softer instead of having hard and sharp ends. In about fifty of his own one hundred and twenty ventrofixations the author attached the uterus to the abdominal wall with Chinese silk which had been boiled and then dipped in a saturated solution of iodoform in ether. It was then kept in sublimate alcohol until required for use. In only one case out of forty did one of these stitches have to be removed, and that was in a case complicated with pus tubes, which burst and infected the incision. The writer thinks that the pores of the silk being filled with minute particles of iodoform, the capilarity of the silk is destroyed and bacteria are also inhibited from growing in it. In passing it might be mentioned that there is nothing so good as a crochet hook for removing a buried stitch, which can be done in a moment and with very little trouble. Chromacized catgut has a great advantage over all these materials, in that we are not only able to thoroughly disinfect it, but we are also able to make it last as long or as short a time as we like. The author prepares it as follows : The catgut is bought from Keller of Nassau Street, New York ; soaked for a month in ether, then for a month in sublimate alcohol one in five hundred ; it is then placed in a water saturated solution of bichromate of potash for a longer