

TREATMENT OF STRANGULATED HERNIA.

—Dr. Zeinemann, of Weimar, has added to the list of cases in which the reduction of strangulated hernia has been effected without operation by means of the plan proposed by Finkelstein.—viz, the application of ether. One patient was a peasant woman of forty-five, who had an inguinal hernia on the right side. Without any evident cause this became strangulated. Taxis was tried without result. The patient's condition was very low. Dr. Zeinemann laid her on her back with the pelvis raised and the knees flexed, and poured ether over the region of the hernia, a tablespoonful at a time, having taken the precaution of applying oil over the vulva and anus to prevent the severe smarting which ether causes when it comes in contact with mucous membranes. In half an hour the tumor was perceptibly smaller, and a very gentle attempt at taxis was now sufficient to return the gut. The next morning the patient was perfectly well. Dr. Zeinemann recommends that in cases of strangulation much time should not be given up to manipulation, as the earlier ether is used the better. The main effect of the ether is, of course, to cool the hernia and its contents, the gaseous portion of them being in this way greatly diminished in volume. Besides this, the cold sets up active peristaltic action in the gut and renders it more moveable. If so much time has elapsed before the commencement of this method of treatment that the muscular coat has become paralyzed, there is less hope of a successful result. Still, the ether treatment may always be tried before resorting to operative measures, which, in spite of the immense improvement in their results by the introduction of antiseptic surgery, are by no means entirely free from danger.—*Lancet*.

It should be remembered that infants require water to drink as well as milk. It does not follow, that because milk is a liquid, it is capable of satisfying thirst. On the contrary, being warm as it is drawn from the breast, it causes thirst after it has remained in the stomach for some time, the same as other food. It is this sense of thirst which causes healthy,

breast-nourished infants to often cry for long periods of time after freely nursing. It is claimed that there are many cases of indigestion due to insufficiency of the child's gastric juice which would be greatly benefitted, or even cured, by allowing the child, occasionally, a drink of decidedly cool water.—*Scientific News*.

BEER.— Professor Schwackhoffer delivered a lecture recently to the Vienna Hygienic Society on the subject of beer. After giving some statistics on the consumption of this beverage, the lecturer went on to describe its manufacture and adulteration. The birthplace of beer is Egypt. A papyrus has been discovered on which a father reproaches his son for lounging about in taverns and drinking too much beer. From the Egyptians the art of brewing descended to the Ethiopians. Whilst the Romans despised beer, the Germans of North Europe fully appreciated its good qualities. However, the refreshing draught became more popular in the first half of the Middle Ages. In the beginning only convents obtained the monopoly of brewing beer, but later on the privilege was extended to lay corporations. In Austria the first brewery was established in Vienna in 1560, and beer soon became the favorite beverage of all classes of society. At present the yearly production throughout the whole world amounts to 5,600,000 gallons, England taking the lead, with about 2,000,000 gallons.

In a case of tetanus neonatorum, in which a Belgian physician had given chloral and other remedies without benefit, he determined to use ether by inhalation. In addition to this, artificial respiration was employed from time to time by means of a tube inserted into the nostrils. Some pieces of Rigollot's mustard-leaves were also applied to the chest. The child was laid on its side, according to a suggestion made by Marion Sims. The result of this treatment was, that in a few hours the little patient's condition had improved to a very marked degree. The next day profuse perspiration occurred, and the spasms entirely ceased. Shortly after this the child was convalescent.