

4. Tapping alone has occasionally cured ascites, and should be tried once or oftener before proceeding with the more serious operation.

5. The operation of epiploorrhaphy is a formidable one, and should only be undertaken in selected cases.

In the same number William Sheen, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., reports a "Case of Operative Treatment for Cirrhosis of the Liver," with no recurrence of the ascites, six months after. Marked general improvement also followed in this case.

MEDICINE.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF JAMES STEWART, F. G. FINLEY AND H. A. LAFLEUR.

Headache.

GUTHRIE RANKIN, M.D. "Headache." *The Practitioner*, Nos. 423 and 424.

Since headache is a subject rarely considered in itself, the profession is under not a little obligation to Dr. Rankin for a comprehensive discussion of this variety of pain, wherein he dwells profitably upon its causation, classification, pathology, diagnosis and treatment. While heredity, age and sex, influence to a considerable degree the frequency of headache, (1) *personal circumstances* as habits of life, fatigue, etc., (2) *local disease* as disorders of the teeth, tumours and meningitis—together with disorders of the special sense organs, the eye, ear and nose, account in a yet larger degree for pain in the head.

For descriptive purposes the following classification is made:—

1. Organic headache is due to intra-cranial changes and as a rule is characteristic, especially when taken with accompanying symptoms.

2. Nervous headache, also known as *migraine* or hemicrania (Clavus may be here included). It is usually preceded by prodromal disturbances, vertigo, languor, tinnitus, excessive yawning, nausea, etc. It is continuous and of increasing intensity—and at the height of the paroxysm—nausea gives way to vomiting and relief is often thereafter experienced. This form of headache has hitherto been regarded as an hysterical manifestation, but Dr. Rankin does not consider it as such.

3. Neuralgic headache—*tic douloureux*: In this form, cold and damp, —decayed teeth, antral disease, exhaustion and depressed general health are, in many instances, the causes at work.

4. Toxæmic headache is the most frequent of all, and the pain is attributable to the action on the nervous elements in the brain of blood altered in its constitution by toxins—and the sources of such toxins are numerous and varied. Drugs, diet—alcohol, tobacco—nephritic gout, rheumatism, other fevers, impure air, may be mentioned.

5. Ocular headache—that form of headache produced by abnormali-