

found much smaller than its fellow, it is an undeveloped organ, and not atrophied. There is no evidence that simple varicocele can produce marked wasting of a healthy testicle."

Treatment.—The patient was advised to abstain from sexual excitement as far as possible, and given half-drachm doses of bromide at bed-time twice a week. He was ordered to bathe the parts in cold water every night and morning; and to prevent an overloaded rectum pressing upon the spermatic veins, a teaspoonful of magnesium sulphate ordered to be taken in cold water every morning. In addition to these palliative measures, a truss made of ordinary gray yarn was adjusted as follows:—Two skeins of yarn were re-wound so as to form twice the ordinary length of a skein. This passed double around the body was looped through, drawn down and knotted directly over the left external abdominal ring, the loose end carried on over the perineum and left thigh was caught up under the part encircling the body at the left ilium. The truss was applied quite loosely for a few days to accustom the patient to its use and gradually tightened until it pressed firmly but comfortably on the ring. The patient removes it at bed-time and re-adjusts

it in the morning before getting up so as to prevent the dilated veins from becoming fully distended. He has worn this truss for two months with very great satisfaction. The tumor is now barely one-half its former size. The patient never experiences any dragging or tired feeling when long on his feet; the spermatic veins not having so large and long a column of blood to support are gradually diminishing in size. The result is much better than simply wearing a suspender as the latter only weakens the muscular fibres of the dartos without causing any break in the column of blood to be supported.

We have at the present time two or three other milder cases on whom this treatment is being tried with like favourable results.

The advantages claimed for this "home-made" truss over all manufactured ones are: Its cheapness and cleanliness—for half a dozen may be kept on hand if need be, and regularly washed as is other underclothing—its suitability for a light pressure such as is needed for varicocele; its elasticity giving good adaptability and support under all positions of the body, and what is also important when properly applied, it cannot readily shift.

INDEX OF PROGRESS.

SURGERY.

Antiseptics in Surgery.

(New York Correspondence.)

To the Editor:

DEAR SIR,—Laparotomy is a frequent operation here and usually results in quick recoveries. The peritoneal incision is carefully and accurately brought together by a continuous cat-gut suture. Then the external abdominal wound is sponged until all bleeding ceases. After irrigation with a bichloride solution, the integument and deeper structures are sutured with cat-gut. The wound is then covered with successive layers of sublimate gauze and the whole enveloped in cotton well secured with several layers of bandage. The success attending these operations is undoubtedly attributable to the careful use of antiseptics. The greatest care is exercised by the operator and all assistants in personal cleanliness, and in the antiseptic preparation of sponges, instruments and all appliances necessary for the operation.

For disinfection the bichloride solution is chiefly relied upon. The sponges are cleansed and washed in warm water, placed in a solution of sulphate of sodium and oxalic acid for a short time, carefully washed, and placed in a bichloride solution to remain until required. The hands of the operator and assistants are washed and disinfected in bichloride solution. Before commencing the incision in the vicinity of the proposed operation is carefully cleansed with a brush and soft soap, after which it is washed with a bichloride solution 1-1000. A weaker solution 1-5000 is used for purposes of irrigation. Ligatures and sutures are prepared by immersion in a solution of the strength of 1-1000. The sublimate gauze is prepared from ordinary cheese cloth by first boiling in water to which a small quantity of soda has been added, after which it is kept in air-tight vessels. For ordinary operations, iodoform is used sometimes in dry powder, applied by being dusted on a pad of folded gauze and applied directly to the wound.