

Miscellaneous.

Supplied Blood "in Extremis."

CASES BY DR. W. H. PARSONS, OMAHA, NEB.

I. Miss B., aged 16, of Lincoln, Neb., was admitted to hospital in Kansas City, Mo., June 9th, 1891. Laparotomy for ovarian cyst was performed on June 12th. She was anæmic in the extreme when admitted, and generally in bad condition for an operation, but the case demanded immediate relief and the operation was deemed particularly successful; but the low vitality and extreme nervous irritability of the patient gave no promise of a favorable outcome.

Shortly after the operation the stomach became so irritable that all nourishment and even cold water were rejected. The temperature and other grave symptoms indicated sepsis. On June 18, the date of my first visit to the hospital, the patient's life was despaired of, and the last rites of the church were being administered at the time of my arrival. Dr. G., the surgeon in charge, kindly gave me a history of the case. Rectal feeding had already been tried with unsatisfactory results, beet tea and milk having been used. At my earnest request I was permitted to test the value of the blood treatment, the doctor saying at the time that the patient would not live forty-eight hours. Bovine, one ounce, sterilized water, one ounce, pancreatine, five grains, raised to a temperature of 100° F., were employed and forced high up into the rectum. This was retained, and the same dose was repeated after an interval of two hours. After eight hours the distress and painful retching subsided, and if food was not alluded to the stomach remained tranquil. For twelve days the only nourishment administered was bovine every three hours day and night, and by this process of nutrition alone, the vitality of the patient was restored, so that at the end of that period she sat up in bed and, for the first time since the operation, expressed a wish for food. On July 3rd, this moribund girl was pronounced convalescent.

II. In St. Louis, a lady had pricked her thumb with some poisonous product, and blood poisoning in its most virulent form supervened, and in spite of the best efforts of several leading surgeons, the case came to a point where amputation at the shoulder seemed the only alternative. The hand and arm were swollen to their fullest capacity, and honey-combed with scores of sloughing ulcers. Upon my advice the hand and arm were dressed six times each day, after having been