

Selections.

SURGICAL HINTS.

Never use peroxide of hydrogen in any sinus or cavity in which there is a possibility of insufficient drainage. Unless the peroxide has a perfectly free exit it may do harm by forcing septic matter into tissues hitherto uninfected.

When there is no retention of urine, and yet no instrument can be passed, it is sometimes well to pass a catheter as far as it will go, and then leave it in position for many hours. After some time it may be found to go through easily enough.

In children and young people complaining of pains about the joints or limbs, never be satisfied with anything but a searching examination. It will not do to lightly make a diagnosis of rheumatism, for both osteo-myelitis and certain malignant tumors may thereby be overlooked.

There is no more valuable improvement in surgery than the fast spreading employment of the vaginal route for much of our intra-pelvic work. Yet the surgeon unfamiliar with it should stick to suprapubic operations until actual work on the cadaver has given him familiarity with vaginal operations. These are easy to learn and perform, but the danger is great in unfamiliar hands.—*International Journal of Surgery*.

Test for a Trace of Albumin.

Praum (*Deut. Med. Woch.*) gives a neat method for determining the slightest trace of albumin in urine. He filters a few cubic centimeters of urine into a test-tube, then adds a few drops of the reagent (he uses a saturated solution of sulphosalicylic acid), and gently mixes them; then filters more urine into the test-tube, allowing the filtrate to run down the sides of the tube until there is a good layer above the mixture. In this way the slightest cloudiness in the under layer can be determined by comparison with the upper layer. Having both fluids in the same container affords a better method for comparison than any other means.—*Medical Age*.

Acute Formalin-Poisoning.

J. Kleuber (*Munch. Med. Woch.*) was recently called to a patient who had by mistake swallowed several ounces of commercial formalin. The man was unconscious, there was marked pallor and cold, clammy perspiration, the respirations were in-