

NEW METHOD OF SUTURE FOR THE ANASTOMOSIS OF THE CUT VAS DEFERENS OR URETER.

Antonio Ferraro, in his experiments on animals, cuts the vas deferens, and into one of the stumps introduces a sewing needle, or slender stiletto, and at a certain determined distance from the extremity of the stump makes a transverse incision of half the circumference of the duct. From the middle point of this incision he makes a longitudinal one which reaches to the extremity of the stump. The same procedure is repeated on the other cut portion of the duct, and there are now two quadrangular flaps, which being placed with their mucous surfaces in contact will be found in perfect coaptation, while the lumen of the duct instead of being constricted is increased. The same procedure can be applied to the ureter when necessary.—*La Riforma Medica*.

SURGICAL HINTS.

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It is a good thing to remember that surgical needles require sharpening about as often as scalpels, and that the use of a bone and a little emery powder will restore to usefulness many needles in an apparently hopeless condition.

It is well to remember that a drainage tube is a foreign body, and hence an evil. Clean surgery and proper attention to hemostasis reduce considerably the number of cases in which drainage is indicated, and it seems to be the tendency of the best surgeons to do the least draining.

In crushing accidents in which the limbs have been caught in machinery it is very difficult to cleanse the wound properly, owing to the fact that the parts are much covered with grease due to lubricating substances. Ordinary gasoline is an excellent thing wherewith to remove this grease; it causes no pain, dissolves away the grease, and leaves a clean surface upon which watery solutions of antiseptics can exert their full power.

Children who are prepared for operation must not be kept as long without food prior to anæsthesia, as is proper in adults. Children weaken rapidly from hunger, and it is best to give them easily digested food up to three or four hours before the operation. As in the majority of instances they