

patients eat a good piece of tenderloin steak, the day after delivery, with a decided relish and with good results. A nutritious diet of this kind has a decided tendency to prevent puerperal women from suffering from nervous exhaustion, sleeplessness, and many annoying and persistent nervous symptoms, due to the excessive demands made on the system for the restoration of the uterus to its normal state and for the keeping up of the function of lactation.
—*Med. Waif.*

SMELL OF SOUND MEAT.

The examination of the flesh of animals from which the viscera have been removed, necessitates the analysis of all the tissues, the inspection of the fat, muscular tissue, fasciæ pleura and peritoneum, spinal cords, glands, vessels, blood, etc., before the meat can be accepted. In the normal state the flesh of every animal has its own characteristic odor. Beef has a special insipid kind of smell, modified by the different modes in which the animals have been fed. Thus it is stated that the flesh and milk of cattle in the polar regions have a fishy odor, because the absence of pasturage obliges the inhabitants to feed their oxen and cows on fish. Veal smells of milk, mutton of wool and sometimes grease. The normal odor of pork is insipid and inoffensive, but when the pigs are fed on offal the flesh has a pale cachectic hue, and an offensive smell and taste. The odor of poultry fed on corn differs from that of poultry artificially fattened. In a diseased state, meat emits a typical odor resembling the breath of feverish patients. This odor is particularly noticeable beneath the shoulder and in the musculus of the inner side of the leg. The odor should be carefully noted immediately after the incision is made. This should be done by the inspector himself. When diseased meat is roasted, it emits a strong and offensive smell. The fever odor is particularly marked in the case of animals which have suffered from peritonitis, charbon, morbid symptoms following parturition, or with ordinary acute disease. In such cases the smell is recognized at once and it is unnecessary to make any incision. "Feverish" meat is always unfit for consumption on account of the leucomaines which it may contain. Moreover, there always exist pathological lesions which denote clearly that the animal was diseased before being killed.—*British Medical Journal.*

SUTURES AND LIGATURES WITHIN THE ABDOMEN.

The choice of material for sutures and ligatures for the abdominal walls and intra-peritoneal structure is a matter of considerable importance, and one upon which the opinions of leading surgeons in the world are divided.

Numerous experiments have been made from time to time, and their results have shown that four or five kinds of material can be used with safety, if certain precautions are used. Practical surgeons have for years used these different varieties with various degrees of success. Some recent experiments reported by Dr. Thompson in the *Centralblatt für Gynakologie*, and quoted in the *British Medical Journal*, are interesting in this connection. He rejected silver as an unabsorbable material, and used carbolized catgut, chromic gut, silkworm gut, and silk. All were sterilized, and made as nearly as possible of equal thickness. With a view to the use of sutures in cæsarian section, rabbits, cats, and bitches, that had recently given birth to young, were chosen. A short incision was made in each uterine crown and united again by a suture, different kinds being used on opposite sides in each case. The omentum and abdominal wound were also sutured. At different intervals the animals were killed and the sutures inspected. We are told that carbolized gut was completely absorbed in seventeen days, little but the knots remaining in ten days. Chromic gut was unabsorbed in sixty-four days. Silk threads were loosened but intact in fourteen days, and almost entirely absorbed in sixty-four days. From these results Dr. Thompson concludes that in abdominal surgery silk is the best and safest material for suture, since it can be thoroughly sterilized, and is slowly but surely absorbed. Chromic gut and silkworm gut are bad because unabsorbable. Carbolized catgut is unsafe because it is too speedily absorbed.—*Editor Canadian Practitioner.*

ANTISEPTIC IRRIGATION FOR CHRONIC SYNOVITIS.

The treatment of chronic joint swellings, especially of the knee, is often a matter of discouragement, owing to the unsuccessful nature of the results obtained. Such measures as rest, compression, and aspiration may, and perhaps do, in some few instances lead to a degree of improvement, but certainly the rule is—That the end attained falls short of that which could be desired. A plan of treating such affections which has been occasionally adopted with success is advocated as being worthy of more frequent employment by Dr. M. H. Richardson, of Boston. This consists in first withdrawing from the diseased joint the fluid effused into it by means of an aspiration syringe, and then injecting into it a quantity of a 5 per cent. solution of carbolic acid, from three to five ounces or more. Massage of the joint is then carried out to ensure that all its structures are brought well into contact with the antiseptic liquid, which is then allowed to escape, aspiration assisting in the process. The returning solution is turbid from the presence of coagulated albu-