

improvement, still it is not so rapid or so marked as in those cases where the disease in the gland is localized. In one of my recent cases, operated on in February last, the patient had all the chief symptoms of Graves's disease, such as tremors, tachycardia, pyrexia, etc., and a very large vascular thyroid. Operation relieved and her general health was much improved, but she writes me (May 23) that the nervousness still continues, though the tachycardia and exophthalmos are much better, and the remaining half of the gland is much smaller. In cases of true Graves's disease operation is not without danger. It seems that the danger is chiefly due to the anæsthetic; so much is this so that Kocher has given up general anæsthesia in these cases and resorts to local anæsthesia by cocaine. Even with local anæsthesia the operation is a dangerous one, and of Kocher's last fifteen cases of operation in Graves's disease two died.

It is my custom to advise operation in all rapidly growing goitres, especially if they be tumors of the solid form. If there be dyspnœa, the operation is urgently needed, but even if there be no dyspnœa, it is well to advise removal of those which are of recent formation and rapidly increasing in size, so that the serious train of symptoms which is characteristic of Graves's disease may be avoided.

*Operative Procedures.*—It is always well to be guided by the kind of case in choosing the form of operation. In the simple cystic case, where the cysts are large and not more than one or two in number, I invariably enucleate by the method I have described before (*ANNALS OF SURGERY*, Vol. xxii, p. 289), a simple incision over the cyst through skin and muscles down to the gland, tying the anterior jugular, if it be seen. When the gland is reached it is incised down to the bluish-white capsule of the cyst. The recognition of this capsule is most important, and when reached the cyst can be easily turned out. It has been my practice to open the cyst and evacuate its contents, so that it then can be pulled out of a small opening, and any vessels which bleed can be easily seized, as they are torn in separating the cyst. In some cases