

operation has been approved of by Charpentier, Leopold, Porak, Hirst and many others ; and if it does all that is claimed for it, it will be welcomed by all.

SOME REMARKS ON GOITRE AND ITS TREATMENT.*

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Goitre is such an exceedingly common disease that very little description is required of it before an audience like this one,—only just what may serve as a definition, so that we may determine the variety of the disease with which we wish to busy ourselves. It is a disease much more frequent amongst women than amongst men, the cause of this being, no doubt, on account of the functional differences between the two sexes. It is also more frequent in youth than in later life. I have not been able to obtain any reliable statistics of its comparative frequency amongst all classes of persons, nor of its relative frequency between male and female ; and the difficulty of compiling such statistics will be seen at a glance, when we recollect that it is endemic in some localities and scarcely ever seen at all in others. In certain parts of India, however, it is said that one in every ten is afflicted with goitre. The causes of goitre are now in as much obscurity as they were many years ago. Many theories have been propounded to explain its occurrence, but, as we all know, none of them has proved entirely satisfactory, though some of them seem to meet certain requirements in its production. Humidity of climate as in shaded valleys, qualities of the drinking water, conditions of soil, individual predisposition, heredity, state of ventilation, occupations which fill the veins of the head and neck, as blowing wind instruments, climbing mountains, carrying loads on the head, working in a stooping position, etc., etc.

In the female, her peculiar functions, as menstruation, preg-

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