

irritation, drugs given for diuretic purposes should act indirectly rather than directly, consequently the secretory diuretics are contraindicated in irritative and inflammatory renal conditions. In functional urinary disorders diuretics are contra-indicated in irritative and inflammatory hyperacidity of the urine. To accomplish this, simple diluents and salines are best adapted. In acute nephritis saline diuretics are permissible throughout the entire course of the disease and exert a beneficial influence by increasing elimination and clearing the tubes of inflammatory debris. Subcutaneous saline infusion constitutes our most powerful eliminant in desperate cases. In chronic nephritis the cardio-vascular diuretics are the most useful, owing to the fact that oliguria and dropsy are usually the result of circulatory failure. The dropsy, under such circumstances, being of cardiac origin, may be benefited by cardio-vascular stimulants, provided the kidneys are not too badly damaged. Dropsy, of purely renal origin, is not amenable to favourable influence by diuretics. Although the morbid process in the kidneys may furnish us with our primary inspiration to diuretic medication, it is the condition of the heart and circulatory apparatus in most cases that determines the choice of an agent.—*New York Medical Journal.*

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## SURGERY.

IN CHARGE OF

ROLLO CAMPBELL, M.D.,

Lecturer on Surgery, University of Bishop's College; Assistant Surgeon, Western Hospital;

AND

GEORGE FISK, M.D.,

Instructor in Surgery, University of Bishop's College; Assistant Surgeon, Western Hospital.

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### EPISTAXIS.

*Treatment*—All that is necessary in epistaxis is to fashion, with a pair of scissors, a dry plug of prepared sponge, in size and length comparable with the little finger of a twelve-year-old boy. This should be carefully soaked in boiled water, to free it from grit, squeezed dry, to free it from unnecessary fluid, and inserted its full length gently along the floor of the bleeding nostril. No styptic is necessary. The expansive pressure of the soft sponge against the bleeding side, increased by the coagulation of a few drops of blood in its interstices, will check the bleeding at once. It should be removed in twelve hours; under no circumstances should it remain longer than twenty-four hours.—*Sajou's Cyclo.*