

## Orthopedic Surgery.



... IN CHARGE OF ...  
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### ON THE CONSERVATIVE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULAR JOINTS AND COLD ABSCESSSES AS PRACTISED BY MIKULICZ OF BRESLAU, 1890 TO 1896.

C. W. CATHCART, F.R.C.S. (*Scottish Med. and Surg. Journal*, March, 1899) gives an account of the methods practised by Mikulicz in the Breslau Surgical Klinik. In addition to fixation and rest, Mikulicz employs the injection of iodoform, and the artificial production of venous congestion, known as Bier's treatment. He employs a 10 per cent. emulsion of iodoform in glycerine, the great advantage of the glycerine as a vehicle being that it is itself a strong antiseptic, destroying all known pus-forming organism. Consequently, the emulsion does not require to be sterilized. Iodoform poisoning is avoided as far as possible by attention to the proper doses. The quantity of the fluid injected depends upon circumstances. For parenchymatous injection into the substance of pulpy synovial membrane from 4 c.cm. in young children, to 30 c.cm. in adults, may be used. For cold abscesses larger quantities may be employed; as much as 100 c.cm. may be used for adults and proportionately less for children. If the granulation wall of the abscess has been removed by operation a much less quantity must be employed, as absorption will then more readily occur. The symptoms of iodoform poisoning described are, severe mental affection, raised temperature, rapid pulse, paleness of the face, fixed eyes, spasmodic movements, albumen and strong iodoform action in the urine and the latter also in the saliva. The test consists in adding a little starch paste with sulphuric and nitric acid to the suspected fluid; the iodine is set free and turns the starch blue. It is stated that the injection of glycerine itself has been shown capable of producing toxic symptoms, such as elevated temperature, rapid pulse, sickness, vomiting, great thirst, restlessness, stupor ending in coma, blood pigment and traces of albumen in the urine, which is diminished in quantity and of a dark color. In using the injection the skin where the puncture is to be made must be prepared as for a surgical operation, and the instruments either boiled or well-soaked in 4 per cent. carbolic solution before being used. In the Breslau Klinik a medium-sized trochar is used for injection of abscesses.