

TRENDELENBURG'S OPERATION FOR VARICOSE VEINS.

Custom (Annals of Surgery, May, 1898) regards Trendelenburg's operation as the ideal method of treating varicose veins of the lower extremity associated with extensive ulceration. Trendelenburg found by experiments that the veins of the leg, after they had been temporarily emptied by elevation of the limb and compression of the trunk of the saphenous vein, are refilled slowly by the return blood coming from the arteries, and instantly by a blood wave coming from above downwards. The conclusion that the veins in the leg are distended by great central pressure led this surgeon to advise ligation of the saphenous vein at two points and excision of the vessel between the ligatures. An incision about four inches in length is made over the saphenous trunk, beginning just above the union of the lower with the middle third of the thigh. The vein having been exposed is carefully freed with a blunt dissector, and all branches going off from the vessel are ligatured. A ligature is then placed on the venous trunk at the upper, and another at the lower angle of the skin incision, and the portion of vein between these two ligatures is cut away with scissors. Custom's experience has led him to the conclusion that Trendelenburg's operation is certainly the greatest advance that has ever been made in the treatment of ectasis of the saphenous vein and, although every case submitted to this treatment has not resulted in a complete cure, it is almost always followed by marked improvement with rapid cicatrization of the ulcers.

THE MENOMETER.

This is a new French machine which is supposed to register a man's will power and show the intensity of his thought. When a person near it goes against a hard mental proposition, the registering needle jumps around in an agitated manner, but in the presence of an idiot the needle clings to zero and takes no further interest in matters.—"London Monthly Magazine."

STEAMING INSTEAD OF CREMATION

Cremation, though often a very convenient, is after all a very wasteful process for the disposal of the refuse of slaughter-houses and fish markets, to get on without which is a great difficulty in town sanitation. The same is the case in regard to many business processes connected with the preparation of foodstuffs. To destroy infection and to deprive these diseased and decomposing bodies of all power of doing harm, the glowing heat of a furnace is, however, by no means a necessity. A steam heat does all that is required. So at Esséa, in Westphalia, instead of cremating all this refuse, they just steam it, extracting the gelatine and the fat, and using the residue as a harmless and well-cooked manure.

There is a jacketed, steam-heated cylinder, in which a perforated cylinder revolves. Into the inner cylinder the refuse is thrown, steam is turned into the outer jacket, and thus the whole is warmed, the vapours which are given off being pumped out and burned in a furnace. Then steam is turned into the cylinder where the revolving drum is grinding up and centrifugalising the refuse. This is thus thoroughly heated, the fat and gelatine flow away, and ultimately, the steam being turned off from the inner cylinder, air is passed through it, by which the well-cooked compound is dried, and any disagreeable exhalations are carried into the furnace for consumption. Nottingham is about to adopt this system of steaming the refuse of its abattoirs. Health.

A SPECIFIC FOR HICCUGH.

Dr. Henry Tucker recommends the use of the following very simple remedy in the treatment of hiccough, namely: Moisten granulated sugar with good vinegar. Of this give to an infant from a few grains to a teaspoonful. The effect, he says, is almost instantaneous, and the dose seldom needs to be repeated. He has used it for all ages from infants of a few months old to those on the down-hill side of life—and has never known it to fail. The remedy is certainly a very simple one, and although no theory is advanced to account for its wonderful action, it merits trial.