

I have used ether exclusively, and found that the congestion of the vessels was a bug-bear, which had only existence when the ether was given badly.

*Operation.*—The neck having been thoroughly cleansed, an incision is made some three or four inches long, directly over the tumor; after cutting through the skin and fascia, the depressor muscles of the thyroid are reached, and if the tumor be large, they are very thin and hardly noticed. In any case they should be incised in the same line as the skin. Over the muscles and deep fascia is often seen running the anterior jugular vein, which is sometimes very large, this when met with should be divided between two ligatures. After cutting through the depressor muscles the gland is come upon; it looks much like muscle, but bleeds freely when cut. Some glands, of course, are much more vascular than others. A small incision should be made through the gland tissue and at a greater or lesser depth, the capsule of the tumor is come down upon: this is recognized by its bluish-white color, but it requires some experience to know when the proper layer is reached. Reverdin says, truly enough, "Whenever you are doubtful, you are not on the growth." When the capsule of the tumor is reached the incision in the gland should be enlarged, and with the aid of the finger the tumor should be rapidly enucleated; if the separation is easy or there is no hæmorrhage then the enucleation may be continued until the whole growth is freely separated. To deliver the cyst, the incision in the gland must be further enlarged.

This sometimes leads to free bleeding, which can be controlled by T-forceps or by the application of the thermo-cautery. Sometimes the gland tissue does not bleed at all, being often so thin that it appears to be part of the capsule of the tumor.

I used formerly to incise the gland more freely than I do at present, then I always endeavored to shell out the cyst or tumor. Now, if it does not come out easily, I incise it and evacuate some of its contents, in this way the tension is relaxed and the gland comes out of its bed, and, as it is delivered, the sac is peeled off easily from the surrounding gland tissue without any loss of blood.