

**Medical Matters.****STABBING THE CHILDREN.**

It is remarkable how careless many mothers are, with regard to pins and needles. They insert these haphazard on the front of their clothing, and are then surprised when such sharp instruments either run into their own body, or into that of the child whom they are nursing. A typical, but by no means unusual, case has recently been reported in a Colonial paper. A mother picked up her child and embraced it; with the result that a sewing needle projecting from her bodice penetrated right into the body of the child. Serious symptoms having set in, an operation was performed and the needle was found to be almost buried in the liver. It was removed, and the child fortunately recovered; but the results would have been far different if an operation had not been immediately practicable. Some months ago, a medical man was called to a child who presented very unusual symptoms of intestinal irritation. On carefully examining the surface of the abdomen, he imagined that he detected a minute hardness at one spot in the abdominal wall, and deep pressure at this particular point caused the child to scream with pain. A small incision was therefore immediately made through the skin; and, imbedded in the muscles, and projecting evidently into the abdominal cavity, there was found a needle, identical with those which the mother used, and one of which was, at that particular moment, seen to be projecting from the front of her bodice. The explanation of its appearance in the abdomen of the child therefore presented but little difficulty. Many similar cases are on record, and they all illustrate the dangerous and even fatal consequences which may ensue from the careless and untidy habit in question—converting the front of the dress into a pin and needle-cushion.

**LYMPH GLAND JUICE.**

CONSIDERABLE interest is now being taken in a new treatment which has been suggested for Cancer. Definite results do not yet appear to have been arrived at, but the matter is well worthy of careful investigation. It is a well-known fact that cancer cells are conveyed through the lymphatic canals and that in the

rapidity of their transmission, there is a great variety amongst different malignant diseases. There is, moreover, reason to believe that in many cases the lymphatic gland possesses the power of checking the progress of these germs. Without going into the scientific question involved in this matter, it has been suggested, somewhat as a rule of thumb method, that lymph gland juice should be administered to patients suffering from malignant disease. It is believed that results have been obtained which strengthen the theory of the destructive power believed to be possessed by lymphatic glands upon the cells of malignant diseases; but the results are not sufficiently definite, nor are they of sufficiently long-standing, to render it at all a matter for dogmatic assertion one way or the other. The theory is interesting, and to some extent is analogous to others which are now receiving considerable attention and support amongst the medical profession.

**ABDOMINAL SECTION.**

ONE rule in the treatment of patients after abdominal operations, which was formerly regarded as a law of the Medes and Persians, was that the patient should, for the first five or six days, be kept rigidly to the supine position. It is difficult to understand precisely why this has been so strictly adhered to, for so many years; because, after the first forty-eight hours or so, there will be little or no danger of secondary hæmorrhage, and the chances of septic mischief cannot be increased by the patient being moved from side to side. Of course the possibility of the slipping of the ligature requires that the patient should be kept at absolute rest until Nature has closed up the open vessels; but, after that, the extreme pain in the back, of which every patient complains, would certainly be alleviated if she could be moved from side to side. Many operators at the present day, therefore, permit a simple case of abdominal operation, after the first forty-eight hours, to be carefully propped up by pillows, in any *recumbent* attitude which is most agreeable to her. The changes of position should not be made too frequently; but there is no doubt that in many ways it is very beneficial to these patients to move from side to side. It assists some to sleep who seem constitutionally unable to do so in the supine position, and it helps to restore the healthy peristaltic action of the intestines.

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