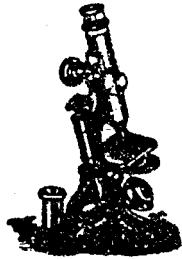


Medical Matters.

OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF GUNSHOT ANEURYSM.



Dr. T. Kikuchi writes an interesting account of his experience in operating on bullet wound aneurysms in *Sei-i-Kwai Journal*. He describes the following method as being the most convenient one, adding that it must be limited to cases

in which the circulation of the afferent vessel can temporarily be stopped by means of a tourniquet tube or by the pressure of the fingers. With the tumour of an artery or vein of one of the extremities, the tourniquet should first be applied and the skin and a muscle be successively cut wide open. If muscle be found covering the tumour it should be freed and pulled apart to one or both sides. When the tumour is reached it should be incised vertically with as wide an opening as possible. The coagulated blood is removed and the inside is wiped clean. Care should be taken in the search for the bullet wound. In a doubtful case a bougie should be used for exploration. The injured vessel is then freed and tied close to the hole, the part containing the hole being excised. After the tourniquet is removed, a piece of iodoform gauze is inserted. The muscle and skin are sutured in two layers. The writer states that if the common method of operation upon an aneurysm is designated as the tying of the injured vessels at their juncture on the outside of the sac membrane, his method must be styled the tying of the injured part of the injured vessels on the inner side of the sac membrane. The writer points out several advantages of his method. It makes the operation easy; the time for operation is greatly shortened; the loss of ramifying branches is reduced; in some cases operation can be performed under mere local anesthesia; the part of the injured vessels that is excised is very small, obstruction of circulation is much diminished, and the danger of consequent necrosis is small. The above article is an instance of the value of the exchange of international experiences.

THE NEGRO PROBLEM.

Perhaps the gravest of sanitary problems in the United States of America, says the *Lancet*, is the appalling high death-rate of the coloured as compared with the white population. Of course, the tendency has been to attribute this difference to inferiority of race, but it is questionable whether this argument if pushed to its full limits would not work out in the opposite sense. There is, perhaps, greater vitality in the coloured than in the white races. In any case they are not so addicted to alcoholism as the white races and statistics show that deaths from this cause are not half so frequent among the coloured as among the white races. Indeed, the comparative statistics of the death-rates from various diseases among the coloured people and the white people which were given went to show not that there was so marked a difference between coloured and white people, but that this difference, which often exceeds 100 per cent., did exist in the mortality among the extremely poor as compared with the well-to-do. It is because the coloured people in the large towns are the worst paid, the worst lodged, and the worst fed sections of the population that their death-rate, generally due to preventable causes, is so high. In Washington, where our contemporary was able to make inquiries, it found that 70 per cent. of the coloured people were unskilled and underpaid labourers, whereas not more than 12 per cent. of the white population were poor and badly paid. But it is in the old slave States that the negro question assumes its most threatening aspect. . . . There the negro has no ambition whatsoever in the white man's sense of the term. His ideal is to cultivate a little plot of land for himself and to be absolutely independent of the money and wages question. He will not work for anyone, however high the wages offered may be, and, the *Lancet's* commissioner says, "Certainly if the negro can live on the soil, if he can afford to keep large towns, factories, mills, and workshops at a distance, and is not attracted to them by the hope of pleasure, dissipation, and gain, he may develop an agricultural race of people whose physique will excel that of the town-living white man."

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