

ŒSOPHAGUS.

Bowes, C. Kessick (Herne Bay).—*Congenital Obliteration of the Œsophagus, with other Malformations.* "Brit. Med. Journ.," March 13, 1897.

THE child, who had absence of both radii and thumbs, as well as excessive flexion of both hands, was noticed to be unable to swallow the milk it obtained from the breast, which returned through the nose. The child wasted, and finally died on the thirteenth day. *Post mortem*: The œsophagus terminated at a level three-quarters of an inch below the larynx, and the lower part, as it came up from the stomach, opened into the trachea near its bifurcation. *R. Lake.*

NOSE, &C.

Gellé, Georges.—*Peroxide of Hydrogen: its Rôle as a Hæmostatic and Antiseptic.* "Arch. Int. de Lar., Otol., et Rhin.," Tome IX., No. 5.

PEROXIDE of hydrogen gives rise to two characteristic types of reaction: (1) reaction by which it oxidizes other bodies; (2) reaction by which bodies in contact with it lose their oxygen at the same time as does the re-agent. It is to this second type that the physiological properties of the drug are due. Its antiseptic qualities are well known, and in this connection it need only be said that peroxide of hydrogen is not toxic, and that a considerable quantity may be injected intravenously without ill result. A very large dose will cause respiratory embarrassment, and even death, due probably to the decomposition of hæmoglobin. It may be employed with impunity even in the case of children. The hæmostatic action of the fluid is very marked and rapid. If a small quantity be mixed with blood, under the microscope, and the specimen observed as soon as ebullition has ceased, rapid formation of fibrin is seen, while red corpuscles run into rouleaux and lose their colour. The following experiments were made on rabbits:—(1) Transverse incision on the inner aspect of the auricle. Application of wool soaked in twelve per cent. solution. Immediate cessation of capillary hæmorrhage. The central artery continues to bleed. Extreme vaso-constriction, followed after some minutes by vaso-dilatation. (2) The fluid allowed to fall, drop by drop, on a similar wound. Six per cent. solution. Effect more marked than in previous experiment. (3) Twenty-two per cent. solution employed in the same manner, and with the same results. Pain experienced. (4) Twenty-two per cent. solution dropped into the eye. Pain produced. This, however, passed off in five minutes. Conjunctival injection. (5) Injection into the middle ear. Three centimètres of twelve per cent. solution. No evidence of pain. Normal, twenty-four hours after. The application produces, therefore, permanent capillary hæmostasis and a temporary arterial hæmostasis, the latter due to arterio-constriction.

The author has made careful analysis of a number of commercial samples, and arrives at the following conclusions:—(1) Neutral solution readily undergoes spontaneous decomposition. (2) Acidity is necessary for stability, but the amount of acid is of no importance. (3) Exposure to air for five days does not cause decomposition if dust is excluded by a wool plug. (4) Light does not cause decomposition, and coloured bottles are unnecessary.

The most useful solution is one very slightly acid, and containing ten to twelve volumes. The author has used these volumes on five hundred occasions in the