rigid by means of a broom-handle or piece of iron tubing. Even that, however, is unnecessary, as with care the body can be placed at once without difficulty into the coffin.

The method is one which I believe will be much more frequently employed in the United Kingdom when it becomes more fully known than is the case at present.

The chisels and forceps are now made by Messrs. Weiss and Sons, Oxford Street, London, to whom I am indebted for the accompanying illustrations.

A CASE OF HYSTERO-EPILEPSY OF TWENTY YEARS' DURATION, TREATED BY REMOVAL OF THE UTERINE APPENDAGES.¹

By FRANCIS IMLACH, M.D.

OF the treatment of various neurotic pathological conditions by removal of the uterine appendages I have little knowledge and less belief. By a curious coincidence, two entirely different motives appear to have suggested this much discussed surgical procedure almost simultaneously to men of different bent of mind. One motive may be termed transcendental, hypothetical, doubtful; it is determined by the belief that certain untoward neurotic manifestations depend upon morbid ovarian activity, and may be cured, and can only be cured, by removal of the ovaries. The other motive is commonplace, obvious, sure; namely, that disturbing, disabling and often more dangerous and even fatal conditions, due to acute or chronic inflammatory diseases of the uterine appendages can only be relieved, and ought to be relieved, by removal of the diseased parts.

It is by the latter motive I have been influenced, and the greater my experience becomes, the more convinced I grow of its soundness.

While in Tenby, however, at the new year, Mr. Beamish Hamilton asked me to see a hystero-epileptic patient, who might, he thought, be benefited by surgical treatment, and whose record may be useful at the present time. She was aged 40, and had been bed-ridden for the past nine years. At 20 or 21 years of age she became subject, she said, to epileptic fits, which had continued to the time I saw her. Indeed she appeared to have become bed-ridden almost as much from the increasing severity and frequency of the fits as from pain; her fits generally recurred three or four times in the day, and it was rare to pass a week with so few as four or five fits. She was always unconscious for ten or twenty minutes during a fit, but did not sleep heavily after it. Having been in five different hospitals, special and general, for periods varying from six weeks to four months, without relief, she had given up expectation of cure, and Mr. Hamilton informed me that bromides and other nervines appeared entirely useless.

It was plain, upon examination, that the Fallopian tubes were greatly distended, and I therefore advised their removal. Menstruation was very profuse, and there was great pain; my opinion was formed regardless of the neurotic condition which now, however, induces me to record the case in detail. At 28 years of age she married, and had a child, which died two years later. I have no record of the condition of the uterine appendages previous to this.

As I was unable to remain at Tenby, she was brought to Liverpool, entered my private hospital on January 10th, and four days later I removed her uterine appendages. It was a case of double hydrosalpinx, with extremely cirrhotic and shrunken ovaries. The right tube contained half a pint of serous, shreddy fluid, and the left about half an ounce. The left ovary was no larger than a dried split pea, and the right ovary about double that size (specimens shown). While being anaesthetised she had a prolonged and rather alarming fit: she became suddenly unconscious, her lips turned blue, respiration was arrested, and her back became strongly arched. An hour after the operation, which lasted only a few minutes, she had a similar attack, and, to our disappointment, a week later she had another, but no more.

On February 15th, being able to walk alone, she returned to Tenby, and the following letter was received on March 18th from her medical attendant, Mr. Hamilton:

"Tenby, March 17th, 1888. Dear Dr. Imlach,—In reply to your letter of queries about Mrs. B., she has been practically bed-

ridden for the past twelve years, since her 29th year, and has passed through the hands and treatment of many medical men, without getting the smallest benefit. Eight years ago she was kept upon her back for three months in the — Infirmary, and treated with pessaries, etc.; twelve months ago she was treated in the — Hospital with stem pessaries, etc., but without relief. For the past twenty-one years she has suffered from epileptoid seizures, accompanied with marked arching of the spine at the commencement of the attack, insensible for periods varying from ten to twenty-five minutes, for which she came under my treatment about eight months back; but nothing I could do seemed to mitigate them, and they were increasing in frequency and duration, when she had the good fortune to fall into your hands. Since her return home there have been only two fits of any severity, and they seem now to be amenable to bromides. Seven weeks from the day of operation she had a spurious menstrual flow, which lasted for five days. This made her nervous, and I think was the cause of the fits mentioned. She is eating well, her back-pain is gone, and I am only waiting for the fine weather to send her out of doors.—In great haste, yours very faithfully, BEAMISH HAMILTON."

As a primary result of the operation this is very encouraging. Had this treatment been carried out years ago, the patient would probably have been a useful housewife, free from pain, and a fit companion to her husband, in place of a hopeless and expensive invalid.

PRACTICAL ANTHROPOMETRY.

By CHARLES ROBERTS, F.R.C.S.

I HOPE that the suggestion thrown out by Dr. Stone in his Harveian Oration that "medical physics" shall form part of the science to be taught in the proposed laboratory for "scientific purposes" to be attached to the new Examination Hall of the Royal Colleges, will be acted on, and that practical anthropometry will form part of that important branch of the medical man's education. Anthropometry, or "man-measurement," strictly speaking, is a branch of human anatomy, and deals with the body as a living organism, while the anatomy taught in our medical schools deals only with the structural arrangement of its several parts; and it is obvious that if our students were properly taught, their first lesson should be to acquire a knowledge of the physical characters of the whole body before proceeding to study its elementary constituents. It is necessary, moreover, that, in order to practise his profession with satisfaction to himself, his patients, and, in public medicine, to the public, that the medical man should be acquainted with the normal condition of the body, and the variations in its conformation which result from race, sex, age, and sanitary surroundings. Besides being a branch of anatomy, anthropometry is a valuable means of diagnosis, not only for defining diseased conditions, but the influence of external agents on the growth and development of the whole body, or some of its organs. Indeed, in its widest sense diagnosis is anthropometry, for all our attempts at differentiation of diseases are measurements of either time or space, and all our instruments, whether for pathological or physiological investigation, are anthropometric instruments when applied to the investigation of the anatomy and functions of the human body. "The indispensable part of the experimental observation of physical facts is the measurement of quantities," says M. Henri Martin in his *Physiques*. "All physical objects are extended, and consequently measurable, though they may not always be measurable by the methods and instruments we possess; and all physical phenomena take place in periods of time susceptible of measurement, although some of the measurements are imperceptible by our senses. The right method as regards all these phenomena," he goes on to say, "is that taught by Galileo, to measure all that is measurable, and to endeavour to render measurable all that is not directly so." But while claiming for anthropometry this relation to medical physics, and thereby securing its recognition as an essential element of that much neglected branch of medical study, it is desirable in these days of the division of labour to confine the sphere of anthropometry to the study of the physical characters or qualities of the body, and to leave the subjects which have hitherto been included in the provinces of physiology and pathology, such as the functions of the senses and other obscure physico-psychological phenomena, which, though measurable by suitable instruments, can only be properly studied by persons

¹ Communicated to the North Wales Branch, March 20th, 1888.