In the 5 dogs from which the portal blood was cultured, no growth occurred.

The presence of living anaerobic bacilli in the livers of all our dogs, and their absence from the bile and portal blood, raises some interesting questions. The belief has been expressed that at times intestinal bacteria and their toxins get into the portal circulation, but if this is true, why should the above organisms survive in pure culture in the liver? Are we to assume that in the dog they alone can pass the intestinal barrier, or that the liver destroys all the others?

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The Effect of Division and Transplantation of the Common Duct Upon Gall-Bladder Function.

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Recent studies[1, 2] tend to minimize the importance of the sphincter of Oddi in the regulation of gall-bladder activity. However, the methods which have been employed to eliminate the action of the sphincter are open to a number of criticisms. We have attempted to avoid them by completely dividing the common duct proximal to the sphincter and implanting the stump into another part of the duodenum. The effect of this procedure upon the action of the gall-bladder was determined by means of cholecystograms which were made according to the method described by Graham and his co-workers.[3]

Under ether anesthesia, the common duct in 2 dogs was isolated and doubly ligated just above its entrance into the duodenum. A linear incision 2 cm. long was made in the anterior surface of the duodenum about 8 cm. from the pyloric sphincter. The duct was divided ½ cm. proximal to the ligature, and fixed at the lower angle of the opening in the duodenum, which was then closed by two sutures.

Six weeks and 8 weeks respectively, after the operation, cholecys-

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tograms were obtained in the following manner: 0.12 gms. sodium tetraiodophthalein per kilo body weight were injected intravenously. Eighteen hours after the injection of the dye, the first X-ray film was taken. Then the dogs were fed with the yolks of 3 eggs in 200 cc. of cream[4] and films were taken at intervals of 1, 3, 6 and 24 hours after the meal.

In both dogs, the shadow was normal in size and density at the 18th hour observation. Following the meal, in one dog, there was progressive shrinkage and increased density of the shadow, with complete disappearance at the 24 hour period. In the other dog, there was only a slight decrease in the size of the shadow, but there was a definite diminution in density, most marked after 6 hours; after 24 hours the shadow was still present. These findings are within the normal variations for dogs.

From the above it would appear that normal cholecystograms may be obtained in dogs after division and transplantation of the common duct. This excludes a reciprocal relationship between the sphincter of Oddi and the gall-bladder as promulgated by Meltzer.[5]

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Changes Observed in Epidermal Cells Covering Myxomatous Masses Induced by Virus Myxomatosum* (Sanarelli).

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Sanarelli,[1] in 1898, described an infectious myxoma indigenous to rabbits of South America. The characteristics of this disease have led investigators to classify it with the so-called filterable virus diseases. Tumor-like masses appear quickly at the site of inoculation, and later at various other points in the subcutaneous tissue, as well as in the lymph nodes and spleen. The disease is extremely malig-

* This virus became available for study through the kindness of Dr. C. E. Simon and Dr. A. Carrel.