INTRODUCTION

Large amount of blood may be lost from the circulation without changes in such indicies as blood pressure, pulse rate and skin blanching reflexes. This is true not only in the conscious subject (Barcroft 1949) but also to a greater extent when the patient is anaesthetized. As the patient grows older it becomes more and more important to check and replace the volume of fluid lost.

To control excessive bleeding during surgery and post operative period, various methods are adopted. But however undesirable it may be, the loss of blood is a natural consequence of any surgery.

For prostate it is said "When the hair become grey and scantly, when specks of the earthy matter begins to be deposited in the tunics of the artery, and when a white zone is formed at the margins of the cornea, at this same period of life, the prostate gland usually - I might perhaps say invariably - become
increased in size (Sir Benjamin Brodie). Benign enlargement of the prostate usually occurs between 60 and 70 years of age.

In old people, it becomes quite essential to minimize the blood loss. In addition, economy in the use of blood transfusion is essential if the growing need for blood is to be met.

To check bleeding during operation various methods have been adopted such as ligation, cautery pressure pack etc. During operation, if the bleeders are easily seen and caught, then there is no problem. But it becomes difficult when the bleeding points are not visualized. In prostatectomy operation the prostatic fossa surface is not visualized properly, hence it becomes difficult to ligate the vessels. If the haemostasis is not maintained then post operative haematuria and clot retention may further aggravate the problem.
To check bleeding many people do packing which is taken out after 24 hours. Again after taking out pack, there may be haematuria.

Therefore it was decided to use a new surgical haemostatic material - SURGICAL, to check bleeding during prostatectomy operations and compare it with other old haemostatic methods e.g. packing etc.