

the ring of healthy bowel half an inch wide was beautifully seen.

The patient was a Mrs. M., 33 years of age, married at 20, and the mother of four children, and she has had one miscarriage four months ago; her family history is absolutely free from any suspicion of cancer. Since one year she has experienced considerable difficulty in moving the bowels, but during the last four months before seeing me she had been suffering agonizing pains. During all those four months she has had to get up twenty times a day and as many times a night, and she would sit on the chamber straining sometimes for an hour at a time so that she practically spent most of her time on it. No stools came, but sometimes there were casts of the intestine and blood and matter. All this time she was under the impression that she had piles, until she sent for Dr. McNamara, who at once made an examination, and found that there were no piles, but instead a stricture extending from the anus up to as far as he was able to reach with his finger. Recognizing the cancerous nature of the disease, he at once called me in consultation. My finger being longer than his, I was able to just get my index finger a little above the top of the disease. As the patient's health was breaking down from want of sleep and from the use of morphine, which Dr. McNamara found absolutely necessary to relieve the pain, I urged immediate operation, and just as soon as the patient's consent was obtained the operation was performed in the following manner:—

After carefully sterilizing the vagina and rectum, a sponge was pushed up the rectum above the stricture to prevent fæces from coming down. Then the vagina was divided in the middle line from back of the cervix down to the perineum, and the latter was cut through down to and through the sphincter ani. The right and left flaps of the vagina were then dissected away mostly with the finger and handle of the scalpel, until the whole of the rectum could be plainly seen and felt as far up as the promontory of the sacrum. Douglas' cul-de-sac was not opened, but the peritoneum was pushed up. The rectum tube could now be