

tact with a resisting substance that prevented further entry. He advised a continuance of the dilatation. I was again consulted, and now recommended an operation, to which the lady readily consented, as her life had become miserable in the extreme ;—pus, urine, and the *debris* of the menstrual discharge were almost constantly flowing, and she was obliged to withdraw herself from society in consequence of the offensive odour that always surrounded her. The integuments of the inside of thighs, and round the anus, were always in a state of excoriation, and although ablution was practised several times a day, this condition could not be prevented, and added much to her sufferings. It is not unworthy of remark that, of all the remedies employed to relieve her, consisting of lotions of a cooling and anodyne nature, ointments, liniments, &c., that she derived most benefit from a 20 grain solution of nitrate of silver, applied immediately after the excoriated parts had been thoroughly cleansed with soap and water. This not only kept the diseased action in check, but acted as a local antiphlogistic, relieving the painful sensation of burning and scalding that used to afflict the patient. Her strength was exhausted, she had become much emaciated, and her spirits were greatly depressed. In the latter part of October, 1851, I proceeded to the part of the country in which she resided, accompanied by Dr. Hall. We there met the surgeon under whose care she had latterly been placed, and from him, and from the patient, herself, learned the following particulars :—She had, it appeared, been advised to consult a surgeon from the United States, who told her that the orifice before alluded to, was the *meatus urinarius*, that any attempt to dilate it would be injurious, and proposed that an aperture should be made in the structure intervening between this and the anus. This view of the case appeared to be confirmed by the fact that, *whenever the surgeon attempted to dilate the opening by means of a very small speculum procured for the purpose, the urine used to flow freely, and no other passage was discoverable, leading to the bladder.* The real meatus, nymphæ and clitoris were removed, and an inflamed mucous membrane closely applied to the under surface of the arch of the pubis, and the cutaneous surface of the labia majora, were the only external marks of genital organs remaining ; a hard, gristly cicatrix occupied the entrance of the vagina, and firmly resisted the finger, barely allowing a very small, three bladed speculum to pass within the orifice. Having examined the condition and locality of the rectum, as well as I could, and being satisfied that the orifice was not the meatus, nor a dilated urethra, I determined, with the consent of my colleagues, to remedy the defect by the following operation :—The patient was placed on a table, before a large window, and the parts