

covered under Poupart's ligament—but that melanotic gland had deceived the surgeons, for in femoral hernia the strangulated portion is generally small.

I will proceed to relate the particulars of a case on which I recently performed the operation. It is interesting, from the fact of the stricture being at the external ring; and also from its being of that description known as congenital, although the descent of the intestine took place for the first time but two days before the operation was performed, and immediately became strangulated. On the 22nd February, I was sent for, in consultation, by Dr. Church, of Aylmer, L.C., to a patient distant about 12 miles from Bytown. I arrived there near 4 o'clock, p.m., and learned that my confrere had been there since 9 in the morning. He had found the young man—John Foley, æt 20—labouring under all the symptoms of strangulated hernia, and made many attempts at reduction by the taxis with the usual adjuncts, including tobacco injections, but without any success; and failing in this, he sent off for further assistance. On my arrival, I found the patient on the bed, with a tumour in the scrotum on the right side extending upwards towards the internal ring; it was very painful on pressure; there was obstinate constipation; great tenderness all over the abdomen; constant vomiting; occasional hiccough; small but frequent pulse with distressed countenance; and that strange but unmistakable cord-like feeling or sense of constriction about the diaphragm. On enquiring how long this tumour had been in existence, the answer was to the effect, that on the Thursday morning previously (about 56 hours before) he was teaming oxen in the bush, drawing saw-logs, and that whilst shouting lustily at the oxen, he felt a sudden pain and giving way in the upper part of the "purse," as if stung by a bee; that he immediately went home, and went to bed; that the pain kept on steadily increasing; that vomiting soon supervened; and that no operation of the bowels took place since the early part of the morn-

ing before the commencement of his illness; and that this was the first time he ever found any swelling in the groin or scrotum—in short, nothing was ever amiss with him before. There was evidently no doubt about the case; the swelling was from incarcerated intestine, the result of an oblique inguinal hernia, —the cord being found on its outer and somewhat posterior aspect, and the neck of the tumor being traceable to midway between the anterior and superior process of the ilium and the pubis; the testicle was very indistinct, the tumour being very tense from the existence of much fluid in the sac, and the intestine being also of course in contact with it in the cavity of the tunica vaginalis. I lost very little time in reapplying the taxis, as there was but little day light left wherewith to perform the operation, which we thought it advisable to do immediately, as time was evidently of great importance. The patient was put under the influence of chloroform, and an incision, corresponding with the long axis of the tumour, was carried about four inches in length through the integuments, which was prosecuted carefully down to the tunica vaginalis: this was punctured and about three tea-spoonsfull of serum were discharged, which accounted for the great tenseness of the tumour, and the difficulty of making out the testicle. The tunica vaginalis was then sufficiently exposed to lay bare the intestine, which appeared to be a portion of the ilium; it was about three and a half inches long, of a claret color, but smooth and free from gangrenous spots, and was returned with facility into the abdomen after division of the stricture, which was situated at the external ring. The edges of the wound were brought together with sutures and strips of plaster, over which a compress of lint was applied, and a sedative was given, and the patient instructed to be kept extremely quiet and free from disturbance, although I believe not much attention was paid to this last injunction, for immediately on his being put to bed the mother rushed into the room and fell