

on this point, "for not only was the non-descent of *one* testicle of little importance, but even the non-descent of both testicles was no impediment to marriage." At this meeting Mr. Hulke related the case of a man aged forty-five, the father of a family, whose left testicle was found within the abdomen. It was small, ill-shapen, and without an epididymis and vas deferens.

Now, if we recollect, that the retained testicle may be deficient of a spermatic artery, or an epididymis, or vas deferens; that it may be merely rudimentary "the size of a pea," as in the case mentioned by Dr. Washington, "ill-shapen and flattened, and the size of a haricot bean," as in Broca's case, and otherwise blighted; and moreover, if it is borne in mind, *that Spermatozoa have never been found in these retained testicles or their appendages, although discovered in the sound one*,* I think the surgeon should hesitate before asserting that the retention of both testicles is no impediment to entrance on the married state.

There are many other points connected with these cases requiring more extended and careful investigation.

Postscript.—The No. of the *Lancet* for 21st January, 1860, has this day (8th Feb.) reached Montreal, and I am enabled to quote a few sentences from it, highly corroborative of the views contained in the latter part of the above communication, which was in the hands of our able editor, before the opinions alluded to, were expressed in London. At a meeting of the London Pathological Society, held on the 17th Jany., 1860, "Mr. Partridge exhibited specimens of spermatic fluid from a patient, aged twenty five, with two testicles in his belly. Several specimens were examined, and *no spermatozoa had been found*. Another case had been examined and the same result obtained. It was probable that a misplaced testicle was a non-prolific one. Mr. Curling corroborated this view, by two cases examined by himself."

SPERMATOZOA IN THE FLUID OF HYDROCELES.

In the year 1843 Mr. Liston and Mr. Loyd, discovered, about the same time, Spermatozoa in the fluid of encysted hydrocele of the cord. The former surgeon accounted for their presence by supposing that they were found in a dilated duct which had undergone the same process as took place in the formation of ranula, namely a simple dilatation of a duct which became distended with the fluids usually passing through it. When Mr. Liston's discovery was first announced it attracted a good deal of attention, from the fact that it was said to account for the failure of injection in certain cases of encysted hydrocele of the cord, because, as he stated the cyst was lined by a mucous membrane, but little prone to take an adhesive inflammation, whereas the serous lining of the tunica vaginalis quickly poured out plastic

* "In three instances M. Folin examined the sperm contained in the vesicula seminalis, corresponding to the testicle retained in the ring, and found a complete absence of Spermatozoa. They were present in the other side. In a fourth case, the Spermatozoa were wanting on both sides." In Mr. Hamilton's case, they were also absent, and the vas deferens was blocked up with a yellowish matter. I regret very much that an accident prevented me searching for these bodies in the cases I have given.