

than the River of Styx would have to be turned in all its volume. The house was dirty beyond compare, but situated in the beautiful and healthful West River Valley, in Pictou County.

The patient in question complained of vomiting, abdominal pains and absolute constipation, notwithstanding, as he said, repeated doses of salts and injections. He had been treated for seven days for these conditions by an M. D. who at one time would have done much better, but upon whom Father Time has wrought havoc. He had given the man up, leaving him a tonic to be a comfort to him in his last hours, and had gone home. At this juncture I was passing, and was called in.

I was just getting home from a serious case, and was cold, wet and tired. The man gave a history of chronic constipation. The symptoms were not very severe. His general condition was only moderately bad.

I made a hurried examination, and decided to change his drastic treatment, give an opiate to rest the tired-out bowel and system generally, go home, and when in better condition return in three or four hours. I did this.

On my return, a more careful examination revealed the presence of a strangulated hernia of the femoral type, hard as a stone, although not large. The patient was now anæsthetized, and some attempts made at reduction, but to no purpose—it would not be persuaded.

What were we now to do? A man 86 years of age, vomiting everything ingested since seven days; an unsavoury house; no nursing staff, and no hope of any being secured. Patient was resolute, however, saying he was willing to put the price of a cow into the operation, but would die rather than go in debt.

All this said coolly and collectively. We decided to operate, and Dr. J. W. McKay, of New Glasgow, was sent for.

Dr. McKay arrived that evening on what was the eighth day of the strangulation, and found affairs presenting a gruesome spectacle. After giving a bad prognosis to the family and instituting what sterilization was practicable, proceeded to operate.

The skin over the tumor was dusky and cedematous, and on an incision being made, the deeper tissues appeared soft and almost emphysematous to the touch. The odor was very bad. The patient taking the anæsthetic badly.