

occasions, attempted to relieve or cure the urethral contraction by gradual dilatation; but so unyielding was the interstitial deposit thrown out around the diseased part, and, withal, so excessive was the irritability of the urethra—severe rigors and fever following every attempt to introduce an instrument—that the Dr. deemed it better practice to abandon this procedure, and seek for permanent relief, by external incision.

The patient was brought to the Hospital for the double purpose of greater convenience and better attendance, and for a few days previous to the operation his system was brought into as favorable a condition as possible.

On the day above stated the operation was proceeded with. The patient being perfectly anesthetized, and placed in the proper position—that is, as for lithotomy—it was found that neither a Syme's staff, nor even the smallest bougie, could be made to penetrate the stricture. It became necessary, therefore, to resort to "the operation without a staff," which is known as the "boutonnière operation." For this purpose a full-sized catheter was introduced into the urethra as far as possible, that the point might serve as a guide by which to find the urethral opening; down upon this, section was made, and continued backwards for a short distance in the mesial line, that an opportunity might be given to effect an entrance into the urethra.

By patient perseverance and dexterous management, a grooved director was then passed through the wound in the urethra, backwards towards the bladder, and upon this the stricture was divided, till the large catheter which had been passed through the penis, and brought out at the external wound could also be passed into the bladder. The discharge of a quantity of urine declared the entrance of the instrument, and gave assurance that the work was accomplished. The catheter was fastened in position by tapes, in the usual manner, and the wound left to heal by granulation. There had been no bleeding of any account, and consequently the dressing was of the simplest form.

The catheter was allowed to remain in the bladder for forty-eight hours, at the end of which time it was removed, and passed afterwards only at intervals of two or three days. Very little difficulty has attended its subsequent introduction, and the chief suffering which has been complained of by the patient was a pain in the right