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**ON FOREIGN BODIES IN THE URETHRA AND BLADDER.**

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Cases in which foreign bodies are found in the urethra and bladder are by no means rare. Scarcely a year passes without the surgeon of extensive practice meeting with one. They are of great interest not only on account of the danger incurred but also on account of the amount of skill required for their successful treatment.

A very great variety of foreign bodies has been found in the urethra and bladder. They may be divided into two classes, those which are introduced from without and those which are formed in the bladder itself. Of the first class, the most common are, needles, needle cases, lead pencils, quills, stalks, charpie, straws, fruits and fruit stones, pieces of wood, catheters, bougies, sounds, ear spoons, and similar instruments, pieces of sealing wax, pieces of wax, pebble stones, pearls, bullets, glass drops, splinters of bone, pipe stems, small brushes, glass tubes, forks, pieces of leather, &c. They are introduced in various ways.

They are often introduced in play or in order to lessen the difficulty of passing water, but most frequently in order to produce sexual excitement. Denucé ascribed to the latter cause 258 cases out of 351. Men and women participated in this form of sexual abuse in about equal numbers, and the articles they use generally vary with their particular employments. Males generally use lead pencils and penholders: with women, needles and needle cases are the favourites.

Cases also frequently arise from surgical manipulation in which instruments or parts of them are allowed to remain in the urethra or bladder. Sometimes the instrument used breaks off in the urethra and sometimes it slips from the hand of the operator and is drawn in, owing to a peculiar power which that canal apparently possesses of taking up anything which may happen to pass into it. The substances in this class of cases are found much more frequently in the bladder than in the urethra. Out of 225 reported cases, in 208 they were found in the bladder and in 17 in the urethra.

Less frequently cases are found in which foreign bodies are introduced by wounding of the surrounding tissues, as in sword wounds, those from bullets, &c.

A case is reported in which Schule removed from the bladder of a peasant a small piece of linen, which the patient asserted was a piece of his pants. He had some time before fallen on a wood paling and a piece had been driven into the bladder.

Patients, however, are very willing to ascribe to accidents what really has happened through their own bad deeds. Frequently the patient does not come for advice until after the foreign body has been some time in the bladder or urethra and has become encrusted by excretions. Sometimes nothing is said about the presence of any foreign body at all until the surgeon meets with it in the operation. Prof. Wesser of Prague has shown me a piece of steel about the size of the largest catheter, rounded at the end, which an iron worker had put up his urethra.

The patient allowed the lithotritry operation to be quietly proceeded with when the hard substance was come in contact with, and afterward removed by cutting into the bladder. The same operator has kindly shown me a glass bead which he had removed by section. The possessor suffered from self-abuse, slept over night with a clergyman and put the bead up the urethra, as he said, to prevent the bed from becoming soiled by the emission of semen. When once the foreign body has reached the bladder it may remain a long time without giving much trouble. There is one instance reported in which a needle had been removed from the prostate after it had been sixteen years there.

Finally, foreign bodies find their way into the bladder by pathological processes. A case is related in which Watson of Baltimore removed shot grains from the bladder of a woman who had previously eaten game. The grains having remained in the game passed into the bowels and found their way by ulceration from the rectum into the bladder. Other instances are given in which foreign bodies have thus passed into the bladder. The bladder may become the resting place of the remains of a foetus in cases of extra-uterine