

HYDROCELE IN A FEMALE.

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Hydrocele in females is of such rare occurrence that most authors on surgery fail even to make mention of it, and many physicians claim that it never exists, and in an extensive practice of over forty years but one single case has come under my observation. This case occurred recently in a young married female residing in Putnam county, and was mistaken by a surgeon of some eminence for a case of inguinal hernia, who endeavored to reduce it, but failing to do so, pronounced it adherent and irreducible, and advised to let it alone. That such a mistake should have been made is not at all surprising, as it was a hydrocele of the round ligament coming down through the inguinal canal, and occupying exactly the place of inguinal hernia, and closely resembling one. She subsequently came under my care, and upon inquiry I learned that about five years since a small tumor had made its appearance, which had slowly and steadily increased in size until it had attained its present size, which was about as large as a turkey's egg. It had not been painful, was not attended with abdominal disturbance, had never receded when decumbent, and gave to the touch a feeling of fluid contents, instead of the doughy feel of hernia, and I therefore thought that, whatever it might be, it was not hernia; and upon a closer inspection I diagnosed hydrocele of the round ligament, although it was not diaphanous. So sure was I of a correct diagnosis, that I at once proposed an operation, to which she readily consented, and with the aid of a professional brother, who coincided with me in my diagnosis, I proceeded to cautiously lay open the sac, when we found to our great satisfaction that we had not blundered in our opinion. The serous contents of the sac having been evacuated, I injected it with a saturated tincture of iodine, and she speedily recovered, without the super-vention of a single unpleasant symptom. The case is only important from its rarity, and the fact that most physicians are not aware that hydrocele can or ever does, occur in the female; and my object in writing this article is not to record any remarkable achievement in surgery, but to call the attention of physicians to this subject, and thereby prevent mistakes which might be attended with disastrous results.—*Medical Record.*