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EXTENSIVE ABSCESS OF THE ABDOMINAL CAVITY.

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On the 6th of last August, I was called by Mr. B., of this city, to see his wife, who was, said he, "in the last stages of consumption." On my way to his residence, he informed me that Mrs. B. had been suffering from "disease of the lungs" for over a year, and that she was now so far gone that her medical attendant—a leading homœopathist—on his last visit, gave them plainly to understand that Mrs. B. could not recover; indeed, that she could not possibly survive many hours. He had not called to see her since, and during all this time, that is, 48 hours, it was most distressing to witness how slowly she was sinking, and, though barely alive, there she was lingering yet.

On my arrival, I found the house filled with Mrs. B.'s numerous friends, who had all collected to be with her during her last struggle. I was led by noiseless steps and tearful eyes to a darkened chamber, where, beset by her nearest relations, I found the object of my visit. She lay on her back, sunk in the centre of her bed, covered with a blanket; and although the heat of an August afternoon was oppres-