

After a short trial, was gratified with a material progress, and in less than three minutes heard the rumbling which accompanied a complete return of the bowel. Patient again fainted. Prescribed opium and complete rest.

I shall not follow the case further, but close with a few remarks :

*Firstly.*—Obstinate constipation, or complete occlusion, may sometimes be caused by a partial incarceration of a portion of an intestine, which neither digital examination nor any physical means can properly demonstrate. The extreme importance of a proper diagnosis in suspected cases need not be insisted on. This patient had taken for two or three days previous enormous doses of salts, but without any effect, - this I was not aware of at the time. I had a very interesting case of this kind some time ago, which terminated on the fourth day in complete relief, by spontaneous reduction.

*Secondly.*—Is the erect posture the proper one, or only accidentally advantageous? Might I presume to offer a theory to my medical brethren, which, in the absence of any other that I am aware of, may be thought worthy of some consideration?

*I believe that the proper position, theoretically, for the reduction of a strangulated inguinal hernia, and in which alone the co-operation of dynamic agencies can be utilized, is the erect posture, with the flexure and adduction of the thigh.*

The means to be used are obvious. If beforehand the colon be well evacuated, or as much so as possible, every rational preparatory condition will have been fulfilled. In the old position, but one force is brought to bear—the *pushing* force used by the operator, if I may so term it. By this method we have also a pulling force (*viz* a *fronte*), namely, the weight of a large portion of the bowel striving to drag the remainder from its posture of imprisonment. Why not, then invert the patient, and secure the action of this new force in a still greater degree? Simply this. The rhythmic action of the diaphragm forbids the continual operation of this force, and should it have any effect, it often leaves matters *in statu quo*, during its contraction. Besides the force here would generally be acting at an angle, the ring being the fixed point.

*Thirdly.*—Many practical men prefer this method of reduction, without regard to theory.