

STRANGULATED HERNIA WITH UNUSUAL SEQUELÆ.*

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When our indefatigable secretary wrote me, asking me if I could not contribute something for the meeting bearing on a case which occurred in my practice, and of which he had certain knowledge, I said I would try, and on his further writing and asking me to put it in the form of a paper, and not a mere case report, I, in a moment of weakness, again said yes. It was, on my part, a clear case of not sitting down first and counting the cost, for on my looking into the matter more fully, I saw that all that I could contribute relative to the case would be a mere statement of some of the facts occurring in connection therewith.

It would, from the very nature of things, be a difficult matter for even a more capable mind to write a paper relative to this case, at the same time hoping for, much less expecting, an audience, for the only subject one could treat upon would be asepsis vs. sepsis in operative surgery, a thing which has been decided and finally settled long before the writer of this knew aught of the healing art.

What I have to say is simply setting forth what nature can accomplish in a fight for our preservation, even though the odds are mightily against her, provided that the scene be laid in a locality naturally removed from the conditions favorable for the growth and development of the pyogenic micro-organisms, at the same time showing you a case where it was debatable whether or not to establish an artificial anus, giving you our own decision, and further showing you how that, when at a late date nature did so, she also effected what may be termed a spontaneous closure of a fecal fistula, and not forgetting the primary cause of all this trouble, did also a radical cure for the hernia, and, as I said, all this against tremendous odds, favoured only by a healthy country atmosphere.

On the 24th day of December last I was in off the road to see a patient, a man 86 years of age, a farmer, living in a house through which, in order to get a condition anything like sanitary, nothing less

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