

masses cause renewed venous stasis, hyperemia, irritation, inflammation and superficial traumata of the rectal mucosa. And since we know that this membrane is always especially delicate, sensitive to all possible influences, prone to take on inflammatory action—in one word diseased, in patients suffering from the hemorrhoidal tendency—is it any wonder that the above methods of treatment are successful only in a small minority of cases? In point of fact it is these very venous hemorrhoidal tumors themselves which, together with the swellings of the mucosa, form a mechanical obstruction to defecation, or are so extremely sensitive to the pain caused by the passage of the hardened masses that they occasion reflex spasmodic closure of the anus. This is especially frequent in the worst cases; and it is indubitable and plainly evident that general treatment cannot possibly give us permanent results. The only measures from which relief can be hoped for must be sought in *local treatment of the hemorrhoids themselves*. The diseased portions of the rectum must be themselves attacked. Local treatment is even more necessary in the severe cases that last for months and years and drive the patient to despair with the pain that they occasion than in the milder and less chronic ones.

Our first object must necessarily be to *soften the fecal masses inside the rectal canal*; to make them mushy, so that they may pass the swollen and tender mucosa without causing pain or irritation. This is the necessary condition and indispensable prerequisite for all further curative measures. The feces must be prevented from accumulating and hardening in the intestine, and thus exercising further compression upon the veins; and they must be removed without renewed "insult" to the irritated lining membrane of the rectal sack. If that can be effected the painful swellings of dilated veins can subside without any other remedial measures.

Our second object is to treat the inflamed and secreting mucosa with mild astringent and disinfectant remedies, more especially with such as have desiccating and healing effects. Thus we reduce the blood supply to its normal amount, cause the inflammation to subside, and the denuded areas to heal up. So far as a *restitutio ad integrum* can be effected at all it must be done in this way.

For several years past we have been fortunate enough to possess a remedy which fills all the indications above laid down as necessary for the permanent cure of hemorrhoids. It was discovered in Germany, and after extended and very satisfactory experimentation with it in actual practice it was