

tained during the act of coughing. The tissues at the lower part of the scrotum were not distended, and the testicle could be felt in the usual situation, and, lastly, the test for translucency was applied in some of the cases and shewed the serous character of the contained fluid. The outline of the tumors was globular, and owing to the great degree of tension it was difficult to obtain the sense of fluctuation.

STRICTURE OF THE URETHRA.

T. D., æt 47, was referred to me by his physician in December last for impermeable stricture of the urethra.

The origin of the present condition began in a urethritis contracted about twenty years ago, and the difficulty had been steadily increasing of late years until the urine came only in drops. No attempt at any time had been made to pass an instrument per urethram. On examination of the perineum an elongated fibrous ridge could be felt in the line of the urethra, and digital exploration per rectum confirmed this and also showed that the prostate was of normal size.

The patient was carefully prepared for examination and a small sized Otis' metallic bougie passed which met with firm resistance about an inch and a half in front of the triangular ligament. Then a number of sounds and bougies (metal and gum elastic) and whalebone filiform bougies were tried, both without and with anæsthesia of the patient, but all failed to effect an entrance into the bladder and could not even be made to enter the stricture. It was evident we had to deal with an impassable organic structure, and that the only method of treatment was to do a perineal section, *i.e.*, external urethrotomy without a guide.

The patient was placed in the lithotomy position with the pelvis a little elevated and an ordinary grooved lithotomy staff passed through the meatus down to the stricture. This staff was given into the hands of an assistant, with instructions to let the convexity of the staff press gently against the perineum. A free incision was then made into the perineal tissues, keeping strictly to the middle line until the urethra was reached