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OBLITERATION OF THE URETHRA FROM INJURY
TREATED BY EXTERNAL INCISION.

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Obliteration of the urethra, or of a portion of that canal, can only occur as a congenital deficiency, or in consequence of injury, and all surgical writers agree that stricture of the urethra due to other than traumatic causes never arrives at a condition of perfect obliteration. Mr. Syme, in discussing this subject, denies the possibility of an impermeable stricture, declaring that he had never met with a case through which urine passed outwardly from the bladder, in which he was unable, with time and patience, to pass an instrument in. But this constitutes the gist of the whole matter. There is a distinction between a condition of stricture, or narrowing of the canal, and traumatic obliteration, which latter condition must be of rare occurrence. Syme met with such a case in the person of a young man, *æt.* 19, on whom he performed perineal section, without, however, his usual success. The case may be found reported in the Appendix, case xii, of Mr. Thompson's (at present Sir H. Thompson) Essay on Stricture of the Urethra. On the question of impermeability, Mr. Syme remarks: "I simply maintain that if the urine passes out, instruments, through care and perseverance,