This procedure was eagerly accepted by the profession. It revolutionized the old operation of lithotrity, and up to the present time has been universally accepted as the best method of treating uncomplicated cases of vesical calculus.

Bigelow showed that the bladder was much more tolerant to instrumentation than was previously believed, and pointed out that the greatest danger of lithotrity was not in the use of instruments, but from the subsequent irritation of the bladder by the fragments of stone left in it.

In 1878, Otis, of New York, pointed out that the calibre of the urethra was greater than had formerly been supposed, and this has been found to hold good in children. Notwithstanding the fact that lateral lithotomy had been eminently successful in children, Surgeon-Major Keegan, in India, extended the operation of litholapaxy to males up to the age of puberty, and in the *Lancet* of January 16th, 1897, published the following table, showing the comparative safety of crushing operations in children:

Nature of Operation.	Number of Cases.	Average Age.	Percentage Mortality.
Litholapaxy	509	6.35	2.35
Lateral Lithotomy	267	6.90	5.24

In making a choice of several entirely different methods, it will be necessary to carefully consider various factors which in great measure contribute to a successful issue. These may be arranged as follows:

1. Age and mortality.
2. Size and consistency of the stone.
3. Completeness of cure.
4. The state of the urethra, bladder and kidneys.
5. The damage done to anatomical structures and interference with the functions of the parts.

To these must be added the skill and experience of the operator.

Age and Mortality.—The mortality of all stone operations is least in children, and increases with each decade after puberty, and cases may consequently be conveniently arranged in three groups, according to age; (*a*) Infancy to puberty; (*b*) Puberty to middle age; (*c*) Middle age to old age. This division marks more or less accurately certain epochs in the development and decay of the genito-urinary organs.