

tum being made dependent by bringing the patient's hips well over the edge of a table. Where an anæsthetic is not used, however, the best is the standing position. The time required for the division of the veins or their complete closure varies from ten to fourteen days, depending on the age of the patient and the size of the varicocele. I may say that I have performed this operation now seven times, with one failure. In none of the cases was a single unfavorable symptom noticeable.

The other operation is a more formidable one, although not by any means difficult. It is one of the outcomes of Lister's teaching, and is not justifiable unless performed with the strictest antiseptic precautions, including the spray. It consists in making an incision about an inch and a half in length directly over the varicocele, and commencing about half an inch below the external abdominal ring. The veins are then carefully separated from the vas deferens by means of the fingers, ligatured with catgut above and below, and divided by scissors between the ligatures. A small drain, either of rubber or catgut, is placed in the wound, and two or three sutures applied. The parts should then be carefully enveloped in the gauze dressing, care being taken to prevent the urine from contaminating the wound. An anæsthetic should be given, the patient's hips being brought over the edge of the table, and slight pressure applied over the external abdominal ring.

I have here the notes of three cases on whom I performed this operation in the winter of 1882-3, but will not take up your time with the details. The first case was that of an unmarried man, aged 31, with a very large and painful varicocele. I ligatured the veins on Sept. 20th, 1882, and he was allowed to go about with a suspensory bandage (the wound being quite closed) on Oct. 6th, namely, sixteen days after operation.

Case 2nd, 29 years of age, married; varicocele not large, but very painful; operated Oct. 6th, 1882; progressed very favorably till the sixth day, when his temperature went up, and he remained feverish for a couple of days. No cause could be found about the wound for the symptoms. He subsequently progressed very favorably, and was well enough to leave his ward in the hospital on the seventeenth day.