

when the attempt is made to identify the lower end of the sac (stage 6). There is no difficulty in recognising this condition during the operation, for, as the lower end of the sac is drawn upwards, the upper pole of the testicle can be drawn right up to the external ring, and, if the latter structure is unusually large, the whole organ can be pulled through into the inguinal canal. Two methods of treatment are possible: (a) The sac can be transfixed and ligatured just above the tunica vaginalis, and is then divided on the proximal side of the ligature. In this way the testicle is provided with a closed serous covering. (b) The junction of sac and tunica vaginalis may be cut through and the testicle may be drawn through the opening so that the serous layer of the parietal part of the tunica is in contact with the fascial structures of the scrotum, much as in the operation for hydrocele. Of these methods the first is the most desirable. If the second be adopted, care must be taken that all small vessels in the divided edge of the tunica vaginalis are secured, otherwise oozing may occur with the formation of a hæmatoma of considerable size. In either case the testicle should at once be replaced in the scrotum.

The Operation on the Female.

This is carried out on exactly the same lines. The round ligament is much more difficult to separate from the sac than is the spermatic cord in the male. This is owing to the fact that the sac in the female is much more wrapped round the ligament, and, indeed, the latter is sometimes almost provided with a mesentery. It is thus generally necessary to remove the ligament with the sac, but fortunately this can be done without any after-effects or disability.

The Operation in Adults when Secondary Weakness is Present.

When secondary weakness, as shown by laxity and thinning out of the internal oblique, thinning of the aponeurosis of the external oblique and enlargement of the external ring, is present, provided that the weakness is not excessive and that the age of the patient and the condition of the hernia do not contra-indicate