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ART. XXXI.—*Stricture of the Rectum, its History, Pathology, and Treatment, illustrated by cases successfully treated by the knife.* By HORACE NELSON, M.D., late Editor of "*Nelson's American Lancet*," Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Medical Department of the University of McGill College, &c.

I. HISTORY.

Diseases of the Rectum and Anus, in one form or another, are of common occurrence, though they are often neglected by the patient, or overlooked by the surgeon, till they have made such progress, not only by their local effects, but by their disastrous inroads upon the system at large, that they can no longer be disregarded; and it is at this late hour, and under these unfavourable conditions, that the advice of the surgeon is sought for. Nor is this surprising, seeing that with very few exceptions, indeed, the primary cause of nearly all the affections of the lower bowel is found in a more or less constant and oftentimes obstinate state of constipation, preceded or accompanied with various derangements of the chylipoietic viscera.

Of the several affections of the Rectum for which surgical aid is at times required, *Stricture* of this portion of the alimentary canal though not of very common occurrence, is one that requires much discrimination on the part of the surgeon, to fully and clearly understand the various causes that may induce this deplorable state of things, and also the best means of remedying an evil, which, if unchecked in its course,—and this is too often the case in the hands of the young, unexperienced, or thoughtless practitioner,—till relief is beyond reach, and death is staring both patient and attendant in the face, when the only alternative, a very precarious and loathsome one, an artificial anus, presents itself.