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HERNIA OF THE BLADDER COMPLICATING INGUINAL HERNIA.[1]

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THE fact that in one per cent. of cases of inguinal hernia there is an accompanying hernia of the bladder, endows this subject with great interest, and warns the surgeon to be careful lest he accidentally wound the bladder whilst operating for the radical cure of hernia. Wounds of the bladder in this operation are not so very uncommon,—more common, indeed, than the number of published cases would lead one to believe. Naturally one hesitates to publish one's failures, especially if they have a fatal issue. Now the protruding portion of the bladder is normally very thin, much resembles a hernial sac, and can without much difficulty be included in the ligature of the sac; again, it may be covered with fat which resembles subperitoneal tissue, and it may thus be wounded in the dissection of this from the supposed hernial sac.

Not a few cases of wound of the bladder are produced by the needle in closing the hernial opening.

Many of these accidents are not recognized until either bloody urine is passed or the bad condition of the patient induces the surgeon to open up the wound and look for the cause. Again, urine may escape from the wound, especially if the bladder has been injured extraperitoneally. If the leakage occurs into the peritoneum, then, of course, a fatal result is almost certain. Occasionally the protruding portion of the bladder is a mere diverticulum, and so thin that it has been punctured for a cyst. In such cases tying off the protruding portion has been successful in some instances. Of course it was

[1] Read before the Canadian Medical Association, August 23, 1904.