

unable to reduce it he consulted the nearest physician next day, and, as it still was irreducible he was sent to the General Hospital.

Under chloroform, taxis was tried without effect, and the field of operation being rendered aseptic, Bassini's method as above described, was followed. The stricture was divided and the bowel reduced after incising the sac for that purpose and to free it, for, as in Case I, the pressure of the truss had caused agglutination of the tissues. It was a case of congenital hernia, and after exsection of the middle portion, the lower opening of the sac was united by a continuous suture of catgut to form a new tunica vaginalis. There were no untoward effects after the operation and the patient resumed work in about two months without using a truss.

CASE III.

W. R. age 35, was suffering from an omēntal strangulated, inguinal hernia. After dividing the stricture and excising the strangulated omentum, the same steps as in the former operation were followed. Instead, however, of using kangaroo tendon, chromicized catgut was employed, and, though the final result was good, he resuming work as baggage-man without a truss, yet, for a considerable time after the operation sinuses formed, caused by the irritation of the chromicized catgut.

Remarks—Radical cure of hernia in the young is more easily performed than in the adult. In the child the sac has generally a characteristic appearance sufficient to readily distinguish it. But in the adult such appearance is lost in cases of long standing, and the pressure of the truss makes it much harder to separate the sac from the cord.

In Bassini's method, the idea is, after obliterating the sac, to strengthen the weakened region by so suturing as to secure primary union, differing thus from McBurney's, in which union by granulation is sought, or from Ball's or McEwen's, in which the sac is in-folded or twisted.

Cicatricial tissue does not form as firm or sound a barrier as primary union, since scar tissue is liable to stretch, and hence relapses are more common in McBurney's than in Bassini's, nor do the twisting or in-folding of the sac secure, as a rule, a good result, as the plug of sac thus formed tends to act as a wedge and so after a time weaken the part and induce a recurrence. The primary union, spoken of, must occur between muscular structures (Int. oblique, etc.) on the one hand, and tendinous (Ponpart's) on the other, and as this takes several weeks, the nature of the suture material is of the utmost importance.