

accidents causing abscess in the perineum, I told you that the medical gentleman declared the cause of the extravasation of urine was produced by a stricture in the urethra. Although he was incorrect in his diagnosis, still such an accident as extravasation of urine is occasionally caused by this disease. A man has perhaps had a confirmed stricture of the urethra for many years; at last the opening has got so small that he cannot pass his urine but in drops; by this time the muscular walls of the bladder have become hypertrophied, and the power exercised to overcome the obstruction of urine is very great; below the stricture the urethra is perhaps greatly dilated, and during the violent straining to pass water the urethra bursts just behind the stricture, or a process of ulceration has taken place which causes the opening in the urethra. You can now justly appreciate the consequences of this accident; great extravasation is the quick result; the scrotum and perineum is filled to bursting, while the extravasated fluid finds its way possibly into the pelvis and down the thighs. Here again speedy incisions alone will save your patient. You must be sure that you open freely into the urethra, and now your best mode of curing the stricture will be to lay it freely open, cut completely through the thickened and hardened canal, in the line of the urethra, and, as soon as the irritation has somewhat subsided, introduce your catheter into the bladder, and perhaps the wound will heal kindly over it; thus curing the stricture, at the same time that you save the life of the patient by your free incisions.

While considering the anatomical structure of these parts I told you that Cowper's glands were situated just behind the bulb in the membranous part of the urethra, and that the ducts of these mucous follicles open into the lower part of the urethra. Sometimes during inflammation of the mucous membrane of the urethra the irritation has spread down the ducts into the glands, and, as in all other glands, the structure becomes enlarged, perhaps the cells are distended with an increased secretion; at all events, the inflammatory action not unfrequently spreads from the gland into the neighbouring areolar tissues, and abscess in the perineum is the result. The patient feels some pain in the part, and the surgeon finds a small hard tumour about the membranous part of the urethra. This body is perhaps hard and prominent but feels obscure, from its depth. The formation of matter may remain quiescent for some time, but by degrees its pressure causes irritation, and, as a foreign body, it has to be removed; as the disease increases