

longed period of such incarceration. That this was so in Mr. Hutchinson's case, was undeniable ; whether it will be found to be the general rule, or a happy exception only, cannot be decided without further experience. For the attention of pathologists seems hitherto to have been but little bestowed on these cases of chronic intussusception ; and it seemed rather to take the audience by surprise to hear that, after the continuance of intussusception for a month, the gut might be as easily withdrawn as it would have been an hour after its invagination.

But, though we can hardly doubt that Mr Hutchinson's paper marks a real advance in the treatment of a disease which is usually fatal, it would, we think, be a mistake to suppose that it has revolutionised this treatment, or was intended to do so. The opinions, quoted above, appear to us at least (and we believe to Mr. Hutchinson also) quite sound, if limited to the acute form, which their authors probably had in their mind. In this form the natural cure is at any rate not very improbable ; nor does it seem that the cure by insufflation or injection is rare—at least many instances are recorded in which the symptoms have yielded to this treatment, the invagination being presumably seated in the large intestine. And Mr. Hutchinson, far from wishing to supersede this treatment, on the contrary recommends that it should be carried on perseveringly ; thinking, contrary to the opinion of most authors, that there is not the risk which has been alleged of bursting adhesions or rupturing half-ulcerated portions of bowel by repeated sudden distension. The operative treatment he would therefore reserve mainly for chronic intussusception. To quote his own words : "The cases best suited for operation are those which have persisted for some considerable time, and in which the intestine is only incarcerated, and these cases are also precisely those least likely to be relieved by any other method ; and in the cases just referred to, after failures by injections, bougies, etc., an operation is to be strongly recommended."