

CHAPTER III.

THE RESULTS OF THE OPERATION.

IN the case of children it is generally agreed that, if the sac be completely removed, the results of the operation for the cure of inguinal hernia are extremely satisfactory, even when the neck of the sac is exposed by dividing the external ring and slitting up the aponeurosis of the external oblique. No attempts are made to strengthen the canal, though the aponeurosis and the ring are carefully sutured, and the satisfactory results are attributed solely to the complete removal of the sac. In 1904 Sir H. Stiles, giving an account of a series of 360 cases, wrote : * " As regards recurrence, many of the cases have been too recently operated upon to enable me to give definite statistics. At present I am only aware of a recurrence in four cases. Two were strangulated hernias (both since cured by a second operation), in which the structures at the neck of the sac were freely divided before the bowel was returned. The third was a child with epispadias, in whom there was also separation of the pubes and imperfect development of the muscles of the abdominal wall. The fourth was a delicate infant, aged five months, who developed a slight bubonocoele six months after the operation." Mr. R. W. Murray, in 1909,† records a series of 102 cases without a relapse in at least twelve months after the operation. Many other equally convincing series of cases have been published.‡ The results obtained after complete removal of the sac, after opening up the inguinal canal, are extremely satisfactory, and it might be confidently expected that the results after employing the method described in the previous chapter would be equally good.

* H. Stiles, *Brit. Med. Journ.*, 1904, Vol. II., p. 812.

† R. W. Murray, *Brit. Med. Journ.*, 1909, Vol. I., p. 644, " The After-results of a Series of Operations for Radical Cure of Inguinal Hernia in Children."

‡ Drs. Bull and Coley, *Med. Rec.*, April 18th, 1905, publish an account of 1,076 operations on children by Bassini's method. There were only six relapses, but mention is made of another series of 125 cases operated upon by other methods, about 1892, in which there were five relapses.