

note. The movements of the tumor—or, properly, hernial mass—under manipulation were very limited, and the act of coughing transmitted no impulse to it. The overlying skin was not altered in color from the normal.

The gravity of the situation was fully explained to the patient, and the necessity of the operation of taxis or herniotomy discussed; but this appeal was met by a request that mild measures be first employed. Accordingly, retirement to bed in a warm apartment, the local application of hot stupes, the internal administration of iced milk and morphia, were prescribed, and purgatives interdicted. Unfortunately, these measures were neglected, and the patient heroically walked about the house and upon an adjacent lake-shore.

By the following morning these symptoms were not ameliorated, pain, vomiting and hiccough having continued without intermission. Further advice as to the propriety of operating being unheeded for another twenty-four hours, and the symptoms taking on more urgent characters, I asked that a consultant be called. The latter arrived twelve hours later, and confirmed my opinion that reduction must be immediately effected by either taxis or herniotomy.

*The Operation.*—The required instruments for operation were immersed in 1 to 30 carbolic solution, the abdominal, pubic and scrotal hairs were removed with the razor, and the denuded parts thoroughly scrubbed with a 1-1,000 perchloride of mercury solution. The patient was now deeply anaesthetized, and an attempt at reduction by taxis made. This failing to effect any diminution in the size of the hernial tumor, the operation of herniotomy was begun. An incision was conducted through the skin to the underlying fascia from the base of the outer aspect of the hernial mass to a point one-half inch external to the spine of the right pubis. Beneath the first layer of fascia another layer containing fat was encountered and divided upon the director; then a small number of muscular fibres was incised, and the sac of the hernia came to view. Although I made this dissection with care, I regretted not being able to demonstrate the elegant arrangement of hernial coverings so well described