

and it was easily seen how, on an attempt being made to urinate, it would drop into the urethral opening and prevent the exit of urine. In the other cases, the only cutting was the division of the mucous membrane over the prostate by means of blunt-pointed scissors, just sufficient to admit the end of the finger, and then the tumour was shelled out, the mucous membrane covering being torn sufficiently to permit its escape. Hemorrhage is troublesome, and I think often requires more efficient control than is given by hot water. In three cases I packed the bed from which the tumour was shelled out with sticky iodoform gauze. This was very satisfactory. The gauze was removed in 24 or 48 hours. The packing is in front of the orifices of the ureters, and thus did not stop the flow of urine into the bladder. Mr. Keys has lately employed a graduated pad, which he pulls down against the bleeding surface by means of a strand of silk brought out through the urethra and secured at the end of the penis.

Lastly, in regard to the anæsthetic, I have used ether; but if there is good ground for the oft-repeated assertion that ether may do damage to the kidneys in these old men, it would be well to substitute chloroform for ether. This may be done with more confidence and a greater degree of safety on account of the position in which the patient is placed for supra-pubic cystotomy.

The mortality attending this operation limits its performance to the few advanced cases unrelieved by any other method. On the other hand, delay which allows the patient to drift along until general deterioration and changes in the kidneys are so far advanced as to render operative treatment hazardous, is unscientific and unsurgical. A man with obstructive disease of the prostate is sailing between Charybdis and Scylla. I don't see anything in the operation itself, performed on a man whose other organs are healthy, that should make it fatal; and I believe that increased knowledge of the pathology of prostatic disease and its sequelæ, with an improved *technique*, will enable us to afford relief to a greater number of this class of patients in the future than at present.