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## Original Contributions

### TREATMENT OF HERNIA IN CHILDREN

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THE treatment of any given disease or deformity naturally falls into two divisions, the radical and the palliative. In the former condition the parts may be restored to their normal structure and functional activity, and in the latter class, on account of organic changes or existing intrinsic conditions, a restoration to the normal state is out of the question; our efforts are then directed to secure the greatest medium of comfort by using means to prevent physical disability. Hence, we see that to intelligently direct measures for the relief or cure of hernia it is essential that we should have a correct knowledge of the natural or clinical history of the condition and its causation. For without this data it is possible to misdirect our efforts to establish a cure by instituting some surgical procedure for the cure of a protrusion which if left to itself might possibly disappear.

It is a well known fact that infantile herniæ have a tendency to disappear of themselves in a large percentage of cases as shown by the statistics collected by Malgaigne, sixty years ago. He pointed out that there is one hernia in every twenty-one children during the first year of life, and that this proportion remains the same up to the sixth year of life, when a decrease occurs, so that