

there is no mention of umbilical or ventral hernia. *Chavasse states that at the Birmingham General Hospital only 4 cases of umbilical hernia were operated on during a period of 27 years, and only one of these recovered.

Browne,† of the Royal Hospital, Belfast, in a paper read at the meeting of the British Medical Association in Liverpool, 1883, reported that in seven years he had operated on 44 cases of hernia; 20 were inguinal, 20 femoral, 2 umbilical, and 2 ventral. In 400 cases of operation for the radical cure of hernia Wood ‡ had only 5 umbilical hernie. In an interesting paper read before the Sheffield Medico-Chirurg. Society, R. J. Pye-Smith § states that about one-twentieth of all cases of hernie are umbilical.

I have tabulated all the cases of hernia reported in the *Lancet* and *British Medical Journal* for a period of ten years, from 1879 to 1888 inclusive, and I find the number amounts to 545. Of these, 328 are inguinal, with a mortality of 28, or about 85 per cent: 154 are femoral, with 22 deaths, or over 14 per cent., and 52 are umbilical with 14 deaths, or about 27 per cent.

Of these 52 cases of umbilical hernia, 9 occurred in males, 36 in females, and in 7 the sex was not stated.

As to age: 6 occurred in the new born (congenital), including one 14 hours old and one 60 hours old at the time of operation. There was 1 at 3 years, 1 at 14 years, 1 at 35, 1 at 39, 13 from 40 to 50, 13 from 50 to 60, 4 from 60 to 70, 3 between 70 and 80, and one at 85.

The average age, excluding the new born, was 54 years. The number of cases reported as congenital was 8. The number reported as strangulated was 36. There were 9 operations for

radical cure in non-strangulated cases, without a death.

The operations, as to age, were: On the newborn, 4 operations and 3 deaths; under 50 years (excluding the new born), 16 operations with no deaths; between 50 and 60, 12 operations with three deaths; over 60, 9 operations with 2 deaths; age not stated, 5 operations with 1 death. In all, 46 operations and 9 deaths.

Two cases were reduced by taxis, and both of these died. In 4 cases no operation of any kind was performed, and 3 of these died.

In 34 cases of strangulated umbilical hernia, herniotomy was performed, with a mortality of 7, or about 20 per cent. In 31 of these cases the sac was opened.

CASE OF UNILATERAL ABSCESS OF TONGUE.

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"Abscess of the tongue," Erichson says, "though rare occasionally occurs." Of this affliction, Holmes Coote, in Holmes' System of Surgery, has the following:—"I have seen several cases of abscess of tongue,"—"and a case of unilateral abscess of that organ is reported in *Lancet*, 1877, page 855."

Bryant mentions abscess of tongue as occasionally following a severe glossitis.

Considering the rarity of this disease, the following report of a case may be of some interest:—

CASE.—N. C., male, age 19, of good family history, had never suffered from disease or injury of any kind until present trouble.

When first seen patient complained of soreness of tongue, and on examination this was found somewhat swollen, slightly tender, and covered with thick brown coating. There was no evidence of injury from teeth or otherwise.

It being at first thought the disease was caused by a disturbance of the

**Lancet*, 1882, Vol. I, p. 805.

†*British Medical Journal*, 1883, Vol. II, p. 913.

‡*British Medical Journal*, 1885, Vol. II, p. 1101.

§*Lancet*, 1885, II, 902; also *British Medical Journal*, 1885, II, 836.