

against the corporation, and his surgical attendant swore that it was caused by the fall. (His chances for fees depended on the plaintiff gaining the suit; only a coincidence, however). I was called for the defence and testified that I did not believe it was due to the blow received on the perinæum; but because I could not assert that it was impossible that it could be so caused, the man gained his suit and recovered large damages. Now, had I been fully aware of this form of hernia into the vaginal process, and its sometimes sudden appearance in young men, I would have had no difficulty in explaining the nature of it, and asserting the impossibility of the plaintiff's having been caused by the fall; thus exposing what I believed then and now to be a gross fraud and injustice. In actions for damages, it is well to be aware of this form of hernia; and I submit to the meeting the question of the possibility of the sudden appearance of a hernia, the result of injury unattended by wound. Is it possible? Can hernia occur in this way? Another point, which occurs to me as appropriate, is the subject of trusses. A friend of mine, the subject of a hernia, wished to obtain a perfect one when on a visit to Paris. When the maker learned where he had come from, he told him his best trusses were American, that he would do much better at home. Notwithstanding, anyone who has had any experience in this matter cannot fail to lament the difficulty of obtaining a proper truss. For the wealthy, it is not so bad; they can have proper measurements made; and after fitting by an instrument maker, have the endorsement of the surgeon. Unfortunately, the victims of rupture are more often ruptured financially; they are sent or must go to the nearest druggist, who has a small stock of cheap ones on hand. He is sure to make a fit, whether it will or not. Now, so great a grievance do I feel this truss matter to be, that I venture to ask thus publicly the members of this learned body, if they realize the evil as I do, to bring the influence of this society to bear on the Government of this wealthy Province to secure a grant of a small amount to the public hospitals, whereby, on the certificate of a surgeon of good standing, a well-fitting truss might either be sold at a cheap rate, or given free, to those unfortunate sufferers. If this paper only

aids in removing so great a grievance, I will be richly rewarded, and I solicit your opinion in the discussion which will follow.

It will, I think, be readily conceded that the truss, when it does cure, does not do so by any special power, nor by exciting inflammation of an adhesive character; but by keeping the parts free from causes that will prevent the natural tendency to close going on uninterruptedly. Mr. Bryant, of New York, recommends for the ruptured three trusses, one to be worn during the day, another at night, and one for the bath. It is all important to the young that nature should not be thwarted by badly-made and badly-fitting trusses. It is still the safest, surest and most permanent radical cure we possess. The occupation of the patient must influence the surgeon largely. When applied he should inspect it closely, to see that it fulfils the indications required; that it supports the whole canal, particularly the point of emergence and some distance beyond it; the pad should be firm, flat or slightly convex; the spring, elastic, firm—all bosses or protuberances are very justly condemned. Finally, let me direct your attention to the indifference shown by the general practitioner in this matter. After diagnosing the hernia, he says, "Oh, you must get a truss forthwith," sending him to a druggist or some instrument maker. Now this is very unfair to our patients and ourselves; the surgeon should treat it with the respect and concern due to so serious an affliction. He ought to procure the necessary appliances; see that they fit properly, and have them adjusted from time to time, and obtain a fee worthy of so much trouble and anxiety; and his patients will remember his efforts with gratitude. I speak of this for the section wherein I reside; I may not refer to others:

Next in order and deeply impressed on "the tablets of my memory" is the condition of strangulation, the operation for the relief of which, partly from the old bug-bear of the peritoneum and partly from a vivid recollection of the awful amount of anatomy, was held *in terrorem*; its difficulties magnified to an extraordinary extent; a danger to be dreaded and put off as long as possible; instead of a salutary resource in which safety only required prompt action in seeking it. The symptoms are well