

namely, *hemorrhoids* and *hemorrhoidal excrescences*. The former are nothing but a varicose state of the veins at the verge of the anus. The veins are branches of the internal iliac; they pour their blood into the superior hemorrhoidal vein, which returns its blood to the vena porta. If this becomes obstructed from disease or any torpidity of the liver, it would necessarily lead to congestion of the veins of the rectum; and this anatomical fact points out to us that the remedies to effect a cure must be directed to the relief of the loaded liver. In their texture they are subject to a great deal of variety. Sometimes, as stated above, they are merely dilated veins or varices situated near the anus or lower portion of the rectum, forming prominences covered by its mucous membrane, or the delicate skin near the anus, and from which a bleeding takes place whenever there is a great determination of blood to the parts.

In the other still more complicated cases, viz. of hemorrhoidal excrescences, their texture is more complex, many of them being characterized by an areolar, soft, spongy structure filled with blood.

At periods when these are in a quiet state, free from irritation, and without any particular determination of blood to them, they are small and shrivelled; but in the contrary circumstances they swell, become firmer, undergo as it were a kind of erection, and blood is voided from their surface. Hence their texture is compared by French pathologists to the erectile tissues. Numerous arterial branches are distributed to them, which have often occasioned a fatal hemorrhage when the operation of excision is had recourse to for their removal. Hemorrhoids are divided into internal and external, according to their situation, either above the internal sphincter, and in the inferior portion of the rectum, or below the sphincter, near the verge of the anus, under the thin delicate integuments with which this part is covered. But as an internal pile may be protruded below the external sphincter, the best criterion is its texture, for it is always covered by the mucous membrane of the bowel, while an external pile is invested by the delicate skin which surrounds the verge of the anus.

Those internal ones which resemble varices, lie under the mucous membrane, which is often found adherent to their surface, and so thin that their blue colour can be plainly distinguished through it.

Varicose piles chiefly make their appearance when the parts are in a state of congestion, in the form of dark-blue elastic knobby swellings, not attended with much pain, yielding to pressure, but returning immediately it is discontinued. In short, internal piles, according to the most recent authorities, are considered to be prolapsed folds of mucous membrane, lining the internal sphincter, extremely vascular, hypertrophied and thickened by long constriction.