be, the sigmoid flexure. The child having been chloro-
formed, I made an incision an inch and a half in length,
extending in an oblique direction upwards and outwards
from the middle line to a point about half an inch beyond
the anterior superior spinous process of the ilium, dividing
the skin, and cellular tissue or superficial fasciæ till I
reached the muscles, which with the transversalis fascia,
and peritoneum were successively divided on the director.
The distended bowel lay immediately beneath ready to
hand. The gut was transfixed by two curved parallel
needles, half an inch apart, and each threaded with double
ligatures of carbolized catgut, after which it was opened
and the edges attached to those of the wound in the in-
tegument. A large quantity of meconium of a greyish-
yellow colour was immediately voided. The substance of
the coats of the bowel was found to be very easily lacerated,
as if softened, from the effects perhaps of previous
inflammation from the distension. The operation, although
tedious, was one which presented no very great difficulties
in its performance. Some bleeding from the lower extremity
of the wound was arrested without much difficulty. At no
time after the operation had the child a single bad symptom
but nursed and slept as if nothing had happened. The skin
rapidly lost the dirty sallow hue it previously presented, and
at the end of a fortnight the little fellow became quite plump
and healthy-looking.

Repeated explorations of the bowel, first with elastic
bougies, and subsequently with a whalebone probe, intro-
duced through the opening in the groin, conjoined with the
finger in the canal *cul de sac*, lead to the conclusion that the
rectum is absent for a portion of its length, as the probe thus
used cannot be made to pass downward for more than about
three quarters of an inch, and cannot be felt by the finger.
The most remarkable fact in the case, perhaps the only one
excepting of course the success of an operation so frequently
fatal, is that this child should have lived for a fortnight (as
it did) previous to the operation, in a condition of compara-