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ART. LIII.—*A New Method of Lithotomy in the female, which secures a perfect recovery, and the Natural Power of Retaining the Urine.* BY ROBERT NELSON, M. D., *New York.*

(*From the American Medical Monthly for September, 1862.*)

Before describing my operation, I deem it proper to say what led me to its adoption. Previously to the case which is the subject of this communication, I have had to attend to six cases of Calculus in the female. The first four cases, one in a child about nine years of age, and three adults, were operated on in the mode of the old-established operation—that is, by an incision through the urethra and neck of the bladder on the left-side: on the left side, because of the facility it gives to the use of the right hand of the operator, and for no other reason. In this operation, and the cure of the wound, none of those symptoms occur that more or less follow lithotomy in the male. But the sequel is quite different. In the case of the Child, a dribbling of urine continued for one year; after that period she gradually and quite recovered the power of retaining her urine. One of the adults suffered from this distressing accident, especially when she was up and about, for quite a year, and then regained the lost power. Another of the adults was also incommoded in this way for a year, when I lost sight of her, and do not know what was the ultimate result. The other, the fourth adult, recovered the retentive power shortly after recovering from the operation. So it is, only one of the four had an early and perfect recovery; two got quite well in the course of time, and one, probably, continued infirm. These cases, which I believe did as well as those in the hands of other and able surgeons, determined me to try dilatation and crushing of the stone in the subsequent two female cases that came under my care. They were both old women.

Mrs. M., about sixty-five years of age, rather fat, suffered much from calculus. The urethra was easily, but not over-dilated; the stone readily cracked into scales like the broken shell of a hazel-nut; a few irregular and sharp-edged