

I found that she already had an anastomotic opening between the gall bladder and intestine that had been produced by the bursting of an inflamed gall bladder into the bowel.

It has been stated that the relations of the hepatic artery, the portal vein and the common duct may be changed and one of the vessels may run across the duct. If the positions of these important structures are altered the removal of a stone from the common bile duct is surrounded by a new and terrible danger. The condition might be detected during operation by a careful preliminary examination of the parts. Even when the structures are normally placed the operation is a difficult one. Much assistance can be attained by a forceps that I have had made by Stevens & Sons of Toronto. It is intended to replace the fingers of the left hand, to grasp the duct containing the stone and to draw it forwards to be within easier reach and away from the important structures beneath it.

The difficulty of the operation varies with the construction of the patient. It is more difficult to perform the operation on a patient with deep ribs than on one with short ribs. In all cases a large sandbag placed under the back and the transverse oblique incision should be employed, taking care to keep the incision well down below the hepatic margin. The liver can then be pulled upwards and the stomach inwards and downwards and the colon downwards so that the field of operation may be brought well into view. It is always advisable to pack in sponges to drag down the stomach and intestines and to protect the general peritoneal cavity from infection. I find that this dragging down of the stomach is of great assistance.

If the forceps I have mentioned are not used the duct must be held forwards with the thumb and index finger or the first two fingers of the left hand. With the duct held down either by the fingers or the rollers of the forceps the operator must decide on the length of the incision into the duct that will be necessary for the removal of a stone. A large stone may be crushed and the debris can be removed with a small scoop. When the length of the incision into the duct has been decided on a purse-string suture should be placed beyond its limits, the incision must then be made in the center of the oval formed by the running suture. The stone