

“What shall be done with cases of gangrenous hernia?” has been much discussed. This case and others, now a goodly number, of recoveries after resection of the bowel, indicate the only rational treatment, and it is particularly in this very class of cases, where rapidity of operation is frequently such an important consideration, that artificial aids are, if useful at all, of the greatest service.

CASE I.—J. W. McC., male, *æt.* 40, had always enjoyed good health until June, 1893, when, while in Chicago attending the World's Fair, he was suddenly seized with severe and painful diarrhoea. The diarrhoea subsided in four or five days, but pain remained, and he felt so badly that he came home and was unable to work for six weeks. His bowels had never been quite regular since this attack. He recovered fairly well, however, until December, 1893, when he had another attack of pain and a hæmorrhage from the bowels. Since that time he had never had a natural movement of the bowels, without a purgative, and he had suffered greatly from wind, which, after rumbling about for some time, finally escaped in an explosive manner, giving great relief. In February, 1894, he was seized with faintness and some hours afterwards passed a large quantity of blood per rectum. A similar attack had occurred once since. On the 14th June, 1893, he was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, with complete obstruction of the bowels of six days standing, and for which he had been given various kinds of purgatives, as well as enemata, but without any effect. His abdomen was greatly distended. The principal distress was referred, vaguely, to the hypogastrium, and bimanual examination, (with a finger in the rectum), discovered an ill-defined mass in the middle line, about midway between the umbilicus and the pubes. This examination gave a good deal of pain and was followed by the passage of a little flatus and soon afterwards by a liquid stool. The symptoms were at once relieved and free evacuation of liquid *fæces* continued for two or three days. He remained well, with the exception of the wind and constipation, which was relieved from time to time by purga-