

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

RUPTURE OF INTESTINE.

REPORTED BY DR. S. M. HAY.

MR. K. FARMER, aged 56, large, muscular, healthy man, left inguinal hernia, for which he has been wearing an old truss for years. Accident occurred on May 2nd, 1911, at 3 p.m. Dr. Fred W. Routley, of Maple, saw him in half an hour after the accident. The patient said he was taking an old fence post out of the ground by having his arms around it and wiggling and pulling on it. The post was hardwood, 5 inches square and 5 feet long. When the post was almost removed the rotten end which had been in the ground broke off and the patient fell backwards on soft ground, with the post on top of him. He had very severe pain at once in the left abdomen and could not get up on account of this. His son helped him into the house and laid him on the floor. The pain was exceedingly severe for about fifteen minutes and then began to subside so that when Dr. Routley arrived 30 minutes after the accident the patient was quite comfortable, lying on the floor with his feet up on a sofa. On examination the doctor was unable to find any mark of injury over the abdomen. The truss was in proper position. There was no rigidity of the abdominal wall and tenderness only on deep pressure on the lower left part of the abdomen. There was no sign of the hernia being in trouble.

The patient was lifted on to the sofa and talked freely for 15 or 20 minutes and seemed to be without pain. The pain then began again and gradually increased in severity. Morphia was administered and Dr. McLean, of Woodbridge, called in consultation. Still no rigidity of the abdominal muscles, but the patient had a drawn expression of face and excruciating pain. The consultants agreed that there was some grave internal injury, but could not decide as to its nature. At 7 p.m. the patient had a haggard expression, rigidity of the abdominal muscles and pain all over the abdomen, but no tumor or circumscribed area of tenderness. Pulse very fast, but no rise of temperature. Pain still very severe in spite of opiate. Now gave plain water enema, but no bowel movement followed.

At 11 p.m. no special change, pulse slower, no rise in temperature.

At 4 a.m. severe suffering, with signs of collapse, pulse becoming weak and fast, no rise of temperature.