

sternum outwards to the left along the lower edges of the third and fifth ribs, connecting their outer ends by a third incision, and dividing both the soft structures and the fourth and fifth ribs. The window thus made is forcibly turned back on the sternum, the sternal attachments of the ribs yielding to the pressure. In this way the heart is sufficiently exposed, and the lung being pushed back, the pericardium can be divided and the knife can be introduced into the ventricle. I have only inserted the knife into the ventricle *in situ*, and if one wished to operate through the auricle the window would probably require to be made by an incision at the lower border of the second rib, although by pulling upon the heart it might be displaced sufficiently to allow a knife to be put into the auricle, even when the incision is made at the lower border of the third rib.

In many experiments made for other purposes, I have been astonished at the way in which the heart went on beating, apparently quite unaffected by pulling, compressing, or handling of any kind. In operating on the living heart, the knife should be introduced during diastole, as one is less likely to wound the opposite wall of the ventricle. The pericardium should not only be opened for convenience of operation, but should, I think, be left open so as to allow any blood which might ooze out through the ventricular wound to flow away instead of remaining in the pericardial cavity, for the heart has very little power indeed to resist pressure from pericardial distension, especially if it comes on rapidly.

The good results that have been obtained by surgical treatment of wounds in the heart emboldens one to hope that before very long similar good results may be obtained in cases of mitral stenosis.—*The Lancet*.

RINGWORM: A NOTE ON ITS TREATMENT.*

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Ringworm, like the poor, we have always with us. No matter where a doctor's work may lie, whether in the city or in the country, if he is in general practice, he will, sooner or later, be called upon to treat ringworm. There are few diseases of the skin easier to cure than ringworm of the so-called non-hairy parts of the body. Sulphur, iodine, salicylic acid, mercury—any one

* Read before the Medical Society of the State of New York.