

secreted, and thus master that inevitable decomposition which is not overcome by any other method in use, for the simple reason that one and all fail to empty the bladder. If the membranous urethra bulge behind a stricture, or if an abscess opened in the perinæum suggest a ready path to the bladder, by all means let a female catheter effect, through the perinæum, what otherwise, I maintain, can be accomplished by the rectum.

Some years ago I asked the question, "Can the urethral canal be permanently restored whenever any complete and considerable portion of its length has been entirely destroyed?" I believe the answer must yet be "No." I had then a boy of sixteen, with at least two inches completely destroyed by burning; and, believing this, I established him with a silver perinæal tube, through which he now (aged 27) passes his urine without trouble; but there is nothing in the growth of the parts that tempts me to interfere, for I know the whole circle of the canal must be gone.

I think, however, that if only a streak of mucous membrane lingers about the part, an efficient connection can be re-established even after the lapse of many years.—*The Doctor*.

HABITUAL DRUNKARDS.—The *British Medical Journal* of June 29, contains the report of the select committee of the English House of Commons appointed to inquire into the best plan for the control and management of habitual drunkards, from which we make the following extracts:—

"In view of the absolute inadequacy of existing laws to check drunkenness, whether casual or constant, and in view of the fact that drunkenness is the prolific parent of crime, disease, and poverty, the committee recommend "that sanatoria, or reformatories for those who, notwithstanding the plainest considerations of health, interest, and duty, are given over to habits of intemperance so as to render them unable to control themselves, and incapable of managing their own affairs, or such as to render them in any way dangerous to themselves or others, should be provided. These should be divided into classes A and B; A, for those who are able, out of their own resources or out of those of their relations, to pay for the cost of their residence therein. These, whether promoted by private enterprise or by associ-