

able to determine beforehand. If a tumor had been present and medicinal treatment persisted in, much valuable time would have been lost, during which irreparable damage might have been done to the cord, or in case of it being a gumma, such improvement might have occurred from partial absorption of the mass that we would not have felt justified in operating to explore for the fibrous mass that so often remains after the bulk of gumma has disappeared, and which would prevent complete recovery by reason of the pressure it would exert.