

TRAUMATIC VENTRAL HERNIA.

BY

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On November 24th, 1899, A. F., 16 years of age, was admitted to the Montreal General Hospital, suffering from the effects of an injury to the abdomen, the result of being struck by the pole of a wagon.

Examination. The patient was a well nourished lad of good muscular development. He complained of pain in the abdomen. Pulse and temperature normal; no signs of collapse or other evidence of serious injury.

On inspection of the abdomen there was seen a small superficial abrasion close to and above the anterior superior spine of the ilium.

In the recumbent posture during tranquil respiratory action the abdomen appeared normal; on deep inspiration a small cone-shaped prominence appeared slightly above and internal to "McBurney's point".

The tumour was tympanitic and easily reduced, the little finger readily passing into a definite opening in the muscles.

There was some general tenderness in the right iliac region. After an observation of three days, during which time no symptoms developed, under ether anæsthesia I made a longitudinal incision through the skin and subcutaneous tissues, four inches in length and having its centre opposite the apparent rupture in the muscles.

It was then seen that the rupture involved all the muscles and the peritoneum. The tear in the muscles was somewhat semilunar in shape, involving the external and internal abdominal oblique and transversalis, about three and a half inches long, with a marked retraction of the cut lower border of the internal oblique, through which the small intestine was seen. The laceration in the peritoneum followed, in a general way, the direction of the tear in the muscles, and was about two and a half inches in length. There is no evidence of injury to the abdominal viscera. The wound was closed in layers in the usual manner, catgut for the deep parts and silkworm gut for the skin. Recovery was uneventful.

After a careful search through the literature bearing on injuries of

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