

whose fund we equally contribute, to put a certain amount aside, as a sort of sinking fund, to be used in the defence of any of its members when cases of malpractice are brought against them?

The College is fast becoming a wealthy corporation, and in what better way could it show interest in its members than by devoting a certain amount for the above purpose? We would then feel individually, that in the Council we have a friend that is willing to stand by its members, for, as instanced by the case of Dr. Leslie, any one of us is liable to be made the defendant in a similar case, although all proper care and skill have been exercised.

There are, no doubt, cases of negligence and carelessness shown by some practitioners, who perhaps get but their just deserts by being involved in an action; but it is not for the defence of such that the fund would be used; let money be paid out of the fund only after a recommendation to that effect has been brought in by the committee appointed for the purpose of investigating the cause of action, whether the physician had taken all reasonable care and shown reasonable skill in handling the case.

By such action on the part of the Council, the cost would be shared equally by each member, and would amount to very little; if necessary, an addition to the annual fee could be levied.

Thanking you for the space in your valuable journal, I remain, yours,

ALEX. FORIN.

Collingwood, June 28th, '88.

Selected Articles.

REMARKS ON WHITEHEAD'S OPERATION FOR HÆMORRHOIDS.

BY ROBERT F. WEIR, M.D., NEW YORK.

Last year, in giving my experience of four months' operative work at the New York Hospital, I reported that after trying Mr. Whitehead's plan of operating for hæmorrhoids I had become dissatisfied with the procedure, and had abandoned it in favor of the older and more extensively tried ligation method of Allingham. I beg again to report that after having tried Whitehead's method according to his more recently elaborated plan, I now desire to reverse my judgment, and to speak in favorable terms of the operation.

Mr. Whitehead's first paper on "The Surgical Treatment of Hæmorrhoids" (published in the

British Medical Journal, February 4, 1882), describes the operation, which he had then practised for nearly five years, somewhat as follows: After stretching thoroughly the sphincter, the hæmorrhoidal masses, involving the whole circumference of the lower bowel, were mapped out into four irregular and unequal lobes. These were divided into four segments by longitudinal sections in the axis of the bowel, and in the furrows marking the intervals between the several lobes. This was accomplished without the loss of any blood. Each portion was then grasped in succession by a ring-forceps and dissected with scissors, at first transversely from the anal margin, and then the dissection was continued upward in the cellular plane to the highest limits of the hæmorrhoidal growths, in some cases to a distance of an inch and a half. Each segment was thus converted into a quadrilateral, wedge-shaped mass, the base below consisting of the hæmorrhoid, and the apex above of the healthy mucous membrane of the bowel. The mucous membrane at the highest point was next transversely divided, leaving the hæmorrhoids simply attached by loose cellular tissue, and the vessels proceeding from above and supplying the mass below. The forceps containing the hæmorrhoids was then twisted until this connection was severed, and the hæmorrhoids then removed. The divided surface of mucous membrane was next drawn down and attached by several fine silk sutures to the skin border at the verge of the anus.

The other portions having been treated in the same manner, the operation was completed.

My first series of operations was undertaken after perusal of the above directions. I did not find that it was easy or at all satisfactory to attach the divided mucous membrane to the verge of the anus, and perhaps from my defective appreciation of this operation I do not fairly carry out its details into thorough effect. It was, therefore, not until Mr. Whitehead had published in the *British Medical Journal* of February 26, 1887, an article entitled "Three Hundred Consecutive Cases of Hæmorrhoids cured by Excision," that I learned better how to operate according to his method, which he then more completely detailed in the following words: "After the sphincters have been thoroughly paralyzed by digital stretching, by the use of the scissors and dissecting forceps the mucous membrane is divided a short distance from its junction to the skin, for it is very important," he says, "that no skin should be sacrificed, however redundant it may appear to be." In this second paper it will also be observed that the quadrilateral section of the hæmorrhoidal masses has been abandoned, and exsection of the lower portion of the rectum is accomplished *en masse*. The further steps of the operation are thus conducted:

The external, and commencement of the internal,