

middle age. It is eminently more rational to perform the operation with a slight risk than to have our patients pass through life constantly wearing a cumbersome truss, or with the troublesome annoyance of a scrotal hernia, which is almost certain to increase in size gradually.

The English surgeons, of late years, are performing the operation for radical cure with impunity; we are doing it, as a rule, only when the operation is forced upon us as the only relief for strangulated, irreducible hernia. Under these conditions the operation is demanded, but in many cases is postponed until inflammation has supervened, either through rough manipulation, or severe strangulation long continued. We will venture the assertion that more deaths have been caused by strangulated hernia than would have occurred from the operation for the radical cure. Those who have hernia are never free from danger of strangulation, and hence their lives are constantly in jeopardy from this cause.

The number of trusses sold is indicative of the number of persons suffering from hernia, and the same is also indicative of the number adjusted by physicians, very few of whom, if any, advise operation or warn the patients of the danger they are subjected to. There are many different modes of operating, but we will not refer to them. In all the operations there is but one incidental danger of any magnitude—peritonitis—all other dangers being merely accidental. The bowel may be accidentally punctured by deep sutures, the cord or vessels may be injured or tied in the operation, or the vessels may be punctured. These possible dangers are trivial, however, and need scarcely be mentioned. We admit there is some little danger accompanying the operation; still we hold that in proper cases the dangers are not in proportion to the relief and advantages.

The time is in the near future when this operation will be the rule in properly selected cases. There have been, and probably always will be, some failures, and a few deaths, but such, as shown by statistics in England, are extremely few, and can offer no comparison to the relief afforded.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS.—The committee appointed at the meeting of the American Medical Association in New Orleans, met in New York on the 3rd ult., to fill the vacancies

caused by the resignation of previously appointed officers of the Congress, and adopt rules for the government of the Congress. One of the first acts of the committee was to rescind the rule which closed the doors of the Congress against all who were not members of the association or of societies in affiliation with it. Any member of the regular profession may become a member of the Congress. The fee for membership is ten dollars, but no dues shall be exacted from foreigners. Dr. Flint, Sr., is to be President and N. S. Davis General Secretary. These gentlemen are well known both at home and abroad, but many of the Presidents of Sections are scarcely known to the profession of their own country. It seems a pity that the committee had not gone a little further and removed all impediments to a complete success of the coming Congress.

HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.—We are pleased to announce that a hospital for women has been opened in this city, in connection with the sisterhood of St. John the Divine, of the Church of England. In noticing the leading features connected with this hospital, we desire to congratulate the Mother Superior, who mainly by her own efforts has been instrumental in completing this work, upon the large measure of success which she has achieved. So far as the profession is concerned, the chief advantage in having this hospital in our midst, is, that within its walls any regular practitioner will be permitted to introduce patients and have their treatment in his own hands, subject only to the rules governing the institution, which are such as may be cheerfully complied with. The hospital will at present accommodate between ten and twelve patients, in pleasant, well-ventilated and convenient rooms. Three beds are set apart for poor women who are unable to pay anything towards their maintenance and treatment, whilst the remainder of the hospital is for patients who are able to pay according to their means. The sisters will act as nurses, and from their careful training and lives devoted to a holy calling, it is reasonable to expect that nothing will be wanting in this respect. The building was formally opened and dedicated by the Bishop of Toronto a few weeks ago. It is situated on the corner of Lumley and Robinson streets. For the guidance of practitioners in the country, who may wish to send