

A CASE OF OBSTRUCTED INCOMPLETE INGUINAL
HERNIA—HERNIOTOMY—DEATH.

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Patient, S. S., a farmer, aged 71 years.

Past History.—Twelve years ago, while suspended by his belly across the upper ends of the staves of a high sap-tub, and engaged in drawing sap from its bottom with a pail, the patient experienced the sensation of "something having given way," within his abdomen. This occurrence was subsequently attended with little inconvenience save the presence of an enlargement in the right groin. The "enlargement" was of the size of a hen's egg, soft and elastic; and in this condition it remained until the 28th November, 1890.

Present History.—Upon the 28th Nov., during the exercise of moving hay into a high loft, there occurred to the patient the consciousness that his "old weakness" had become exaggerated. Examination disclosed the enlargement in the groin increased to twice its original size; and with its altered condition symptoms of intestinal obstruction developed. Pain in the right groin, radiating to the umbilicus and stomach; distension of the intestines; vomiting of matters biliary; constipation, and hiccough were the symptoms manifested. When these symptoms had been in progress two days, I was called in attendance.

I found the patient much depressed by the severity of pain, by the frequency of hiccough, and by the persistence of vomiting. The matters ejected from the stomach consisted of partially digested food mingled with bile and a peculiar muddy matter made up of fine brownish particles. From the vomit was emitted an odor sour and fecal. The tongue was coated with a grayish-brown fur, existing in the form of patches irregularly scattered over its dorsum. The pulse was weak and compressible, and constipation was still present. Examination of the groin revealed the following: A tumor the size of a large goose-egg, slightly elastic and greatly distended, situated a half-inch above Poupart's ligament, midway between the anterior superior spine of the ilium and the pubic symphysis, and giving a flat percussion-