

chemical occurrences of nutrition that constitute its peculiar phenomena; for until these be pre-ascertained, no accurate interpretation of medicinal agency involving them can be rendered.

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ART. XXV.—*On Hemorrhoids, and Prolapsus of the Rectum, with their Treatment, by the Application of Nitric-Acid.* By V. A. BROWN, M.B., Surgeon to the Enrolled Pensioners and Volunteer Battery of Artillery, London, Canada West.

Hæmorrhoidal affections have been so frequently the theme of surgical enquiry, they have excited so much controversy, and called forth so many monographs from eminent members of the profession, within the last few years, that one feels no little hesitation in approaching such a subject. In a practical Science like surgery, far more good is in general done by directing attention to special points, enlarging the field that has been already sown, and maturing its products, than by lending the mind exclusively to the conception and propounding of novelty.

A novel idea, being the result of deep meditation and close reasoning, may in point of utility, though replete with merit, if unaided by any light antecedently shed on the subject, be without value, while the accomplishment of the task just mentioned can hardly fail to be of practical benefit to some, and perhaps suggestive to all.

This observation applies with peculiar force to the subject of the present communication, and may be deemed a sufficient excuse for introducing one here, which to many may seem too often touched upon.

No class of affection which comes under the cognizance of the surgeon is more distressing, or more productive of uneasiness and suffering either to male or female, than those of the rectum, particularly if they have existed for any length of time.

On this continent hæmorrhoidal affections are extremely common, to be attributed in a very great measure to the climate and our mode of life, which to a great extent tend to cause and promote torpidity of the hepatic secretions, and with it a general congestion of the whole portal system. The frequency also of dysenteric affections often lays their foundation and that of prolapse.

They are seldom met with in very young persons, being scarcely ever produced till the body is completely developed in breadth as well as height, an age between 30 and 40 being the most common period for them to begin.

In speaking of piles, two things very distinct in their nature, treatment, and consequences are frequently confounded with each other,