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INTUSSUSCEPTION, WITH REPORT OF A CASE.*

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FRIDAY evening, February 8th, Edgar B., aged eight months, had a sudden pain in the abdomen, referred, more particularly, to the umbilical region. He suffered slightly during the night, was restless and slept poorly. Saturday morning the child was uncomfortable, but in no great pain. In the afternoon some blood was passed per anus. From this time till Sunday afternoon there was tenesmus and several discharges of blood and mucus. On Sunday afternoon medical aid was sought and the information given that the bowels were not right, that the patient had passed blood, but had not a faecal evacuation on Saturday or Sunday. A request was made for tablets to regulate the bowels. I ordered a normal salt solution per rectum and tablets of calomel to be administered in small doses till improvement.

The child's condition was not seriously regarded by the parents, and it was not till Monday morning at two o'clock that I received a full account of the case. The message at this hour was that there had been no movement of the bowels since Friday, that the child was straining, and though in no great pain, was restless. I expressed the opinion that the symptoms described indicated a serious condition, and intimated that the child should be seen at once. I felt convinced that the cause of the trouble was an intussusception.

The child's appearance was fairly good, and except for fretfulness a serious state would not have been credited to the little one. The abdomen was not tense, nor rigid, and offered no resistance to the examining hand. Palpation did not reveal any unusual condition, but an examination per rectum encountered a tube-like structure on the left side in the region of the sigmoid flexure. There was a ring-like extremity with a central opening and resembled the feel of the os uteri. With the index finger of the right hand fixing the lower extremity of the tumor, it was possible to define the intussusception with the fingers of the left hand.

Immediate operation was urged, but the parents failed to realize that a condition so tolerable needed a procedure so radical. I advised a consultation, and to save delay stated the case to the consultant, Dr. Hay,

*Read before the Clinical Society of the Toronto Western Hospital, 5th December, 1907.