

## ON THE DIAGNOSIS OF TUMORS OF THE GROIN.

Extract from a lecture by Christopher Heath, F.R.C.S., in *Medical Times and Gazette*.

## DIAGNOSIS OF INGUINAL TUMORS.

*Hernia*.—Impulse on coughing; reducible with gurgle; clear on percussion if intestine; feels like intestine, or knotty, if omentum.

*Hydrocele of Cord*.—Impulse on coughing; apparently reducible; dull on percussion; elastic feel, like small elongated bag of fluid.

*Iliac Abscess*.—Impulse on coughing; non-reducible; dull on percussion; elastic, and possibly fluctuating.

*Lymphadenoma*.—No impulse on coughing; non-reducible; dull on percussion; Hard, well-defined, not tender unless inflamed.

*Testis*.—No impulse on coughing; non-reducible; dull on percussion; obscurely elastic, and characteristically painful.

## DIAGNOSIS OF FEMORAL TUMORS.

*Hernia*.—Impulse on coughing; reducible with gurgle; clear on percussion if intestinal; feels like intestine, or knotty, if omentum.

*Psoas Abscess*.—Impulse on coughing; irreducible; dull on percussion; elastic or fluctuating.

*Fatty Tumor*.—No impulse; irreducible; dull; lobulated.

*Cyst in Canal, or Lymphadenoma*.—No impulse; irreducible; too small for percussion; hard and ill-defined.

## REDUCIBLE SCROTAL TUMORS.

*Hernia*.—Impulse on coughing; percussion clear if intestinal, dull if omental; ring and inguinal canal occupied, spermatic cord obscured; intestine to be felt, and returned with gurgle, and remains up till effort is made; opaque; any age.

*Congenital Hydrocele*.—No impulse unless combined with hernia; percussion dull; ring and canal clear; fluid to be felt, and readily returned when patient lies down, and reappears slowly when he stands up; translucent; childhood.

*Varicocele*.—Impulse on coughing when large; percussion dull; ring occupied by enlarged spermatic cord; feels like a bag of worms when small, but like intestine when large—can be reduced by pressure, and fills again while pressure is made on ring; opaque; young adult, and on left side.

## IRREDUCIBLE SCROTAL TUMORS.

*Hernia*.—Sausage-shaped; intestine clear, omentum dull; intestinal or knotty; opaque; sudden.

*Hydrocele*.—Pyriform; dull on percussion; elastic or fluctuating; translucent; chronic.

*Hamatocele*.—Globular; dull on percussion; tense or doughy; opaque; sudden.

*Sarcocele*.—Irregular; dull on percussion; more or less induration; opaque; chronic.

*Strangulated Hernia*.—Suddenly produced, or if present before strangulated, thus: pain in groin and about abdomen, with considerable constitutional depression and anxiety of face; tumor tense, and giving the sensation of intestine when manipulated—skin normal; impulse on coughing to be felt along the groin, in which there is more fullness than usual, but ceases abruptly at the point of strangulation; percussion over tumor gives a clear sound unless the protrusion is omental; vomiting probably present, continuous, and eventually stercoraceous.

*Hamatocele*.—Suddenly produced by some external violence; pain in scrotum and constitutional disturbance, slight after the first few minutes; tumor tense and heavy, globular in shape, and not translucent—skin often bruised; no impulse in groin, which is perfectly normal; percussion gives a dull note; vomiting immediately following the accident, but not continued.

*Orchitis*.—Developed a few hours after a blow or following gonorrhea; pain in scrotum and along the cord to the loins—feverish disturbance of system; tumor excessively tender to the touch—cord thickened—skin reddened; no impulse on coughing; percussion gives a dull note; nausea and faintness, but seldom vomiting.

## THE THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF CROTON-CHLORAL.

Dr. R. Riddell speaks, in a paper printed in the *Dublin Journal of Medical Science*, favorably of this new remedy. He says, after quoting his first instance—

Since that time I have used it largely—sometimes failing, sometimes relieving—till, by keeping an account of all my cases, it began to dawn on me which were benefited by the drug. Since then the number of cases relieved (some permanently) has increased. These cases are—headache in females, arising from mental distress; those cases of headache so frequent at the menopause—in fact, all those called neuralgic, except a few arising from internal mischief, are benefited, and, in many instances, cured. In that distressing species of neuralgia called tic-douloureux, I have found it in many cases acting like a charm. Of course I do not include any arising from cranial or intercranial causes. I have tried it in neuralgia of the ovaries, but no good resulted. In insomnia it is not so reliable as the hydrate, but in some cases, where the loss of, or inability to sleep, is accompanied by a weak or fatty heart, it is to be preferred, as it has no weakening effect on the central organ of the cir-