

SOME FUNCTIONS OF THE OMENTUM 141

by the fact, that, whether the lesion be in the diaphragmatic roof of the abdomen (*Fig. 127*), or on the floor of the pelvis (*Fig. 132*), there the omentum can and does find its way (*Figs. 123 to 138.**)

Another function special to the omentum is an extraordinary capacity for the formation of new blood-vessels. Wherever it adheres new blood-vessels develop with great rapidity, and where the continued need for them arises they may reach a considerable size. I have excised large and well-nourished ovarian tumours deprived of

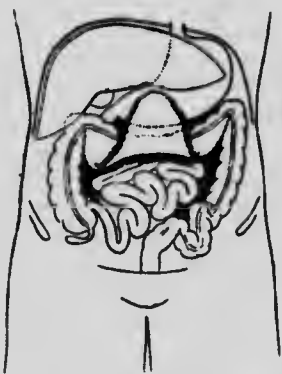


Fig. 137.—OMENTUM SEALING AN ULCER OF THE STOMACH.

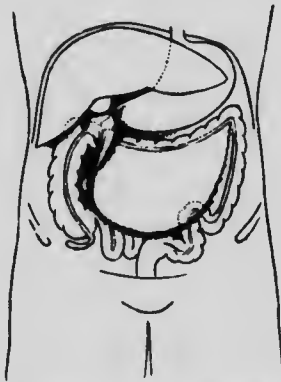


Fig. 138.—OMENTUM SEALING AN ULCER OF THE DUODENUM.

their ordinary vascular supply by an attack of torsion, and depending for their life on large omental vessels. The only uterine fibroids which can attain to colossal size are either retroperitoneal, or depend chiefly upon vessels derived from the omentum for their continued growth. The largest I ever removed was of the subperitoneal variety. It had a thin and narrow pedicle below, but above was capped by omentum, which carried to it at least half a dozen arteries of the size of the brachial.

* These drawings are reprints from the *British Medical Journal*, of January 14th, 1906, and were made for me by Mr. Richardson to illustrate cases we had observed.