

cancer invading the rectum is less liable to become disseminated, and hence its early removal will greatly serve to protect the patient from systemic infection. Quite a number of cases have recently been performed in New York by various operators, and Dr. Van Buren has, in a recent number of the *New York Medical Record*, published a lecture delivered on this subject with a report of three cases. The case annexed is the first of the kind I have seen which, in my own opinion, was suitable for the operation. I have met with several cases of cancer of the rectum, and have performed colotomy in that affection on several occasions, not as a curative but as a palliative measure; but the case under review, notwithstanding the patient's great age, seemed to be one suitable for extirpation, which operation was carried out with success. The notes are as follows:

*July 22nd, 1878*, I was requested to see Mrs. N., an old lady of seventy years, who was reported to be suffering from dysentery. She was a hale and well preserved woman and had been the subject of procidentia uteri for many years. She was of a constipated habit, and whenever she went to stool the straining was so great that the uterus and bladder would be forced out and had remained so during the past six weeks. There was great difficulty in relieving her bowels, and for the last week or ten days, I was informed, she had a dysenteric attack, passing liquid fæces in small quantities, but very frequently, mixed with blood and mucus. The tenesmus was very distressing, and there existed a constant feeling of fullness and distention. There was also a burning, dragging feeling, extending up the course of the bowel, with pain over the sacrum and down the thighs. From the history and symptoms, I supposed that the bowel was filled with impacted fæces which was locally keeping up the irritation. I prescribed a dose of castor oil. This operated three or four times and gave much relief. The tenesmus, however, still continued, and she passed much blood and mucus. On the 26th, her daughter informed me that she had bleeding piles and that they were ulcerated. This led to a careful inspection, when the following condition was observed:—