

SURGERY.

IN CHARGE OF

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SOME PRACTICAL NOTES ON DISEASES OF THE RECTUM.

L. H. Adler, jr., refers briefly to some practical points in the consideration of some of the forms of rectal diseases. Congenital malformations of the anus and the rectum occur often enough to justify attention being called to the necessity for every new-born child being carefully examined at the time of its birth. In the treatment of suppurative process in the neighborhood of the rectum, poultices should be avoided and the affected parts laid freely open as soon as the formation of the abscess is recognized, even before pus is present. In all cases of fistula in ano it is to be remembered that the sinus may be the result of a stricture of the rectum, and the usual treatment directed for the relief of the fistula will not result in a cure. A digital examination of the bowel will usually prevent such an error being made. In cases of fistula the internal opening in most cases is to be found between the two sphincter muscles and not higher in the rectum. In the treatment of fissure of the bowel the use of opium should be avoided ; the best remedy is iodoform, preferably in the form of a ten-grain suppository, of which one should be carefully inserted into the rectum half an hour before an expected movement of the bowels and another immediately after the passage has occurred. All hemorrhoids do not require operative interference ; in the formative stage frequent ablutions of the part with cold water will allay, if not abort, inflammatory tendencies of the veins, which otherwise finally lead to piles. Operation should not be postponed until the acute inflammation has subsided ; it is when the patient is suffering that consent will be most readily obtained, and it is owing to such advice that patients finally drift into the hands of quacks.—*N. Y. Med. Jour., Medical Review.*