

to have a good chance to get well with an artificial anus. We agreed that the best thing to do was to do nothing, any more than to keep the patient as quiet and clean as possible until the artificial anus had become well and strong enough to bear the necessary disturbance of attempting to unite or procure a passage from the upper to the lower section of the intestine. The loop of intestine then laying in the sack, dead and gangrenous I have frequently seen in Dr. S.'s office, put up in alcohol. The doctor told me it was about five feet long. It certainly looked to be four feet or more. Then there was a piece of six or eight inches that was lost. I have tried, but could not trace this specimen since Dr. S.'s death; it must have been at least four feet long.

J. D., the patient, tells me that as soon as the two pieces of gut, which together were a little over four feet long, came away, he began to have his passages in the natural way; that within one week after this he had no more feces pass through the abscess; that for the large size of the wound it healed rapidly, only left a little sinus that discharged just a little, merely enough to keep the spot moist. This continued for about three months, when, about three hours after eating some lettuce, he felt something at the seat of the abscess. Upon removing his clothes, a little stream of greenish water, free from smell, about the size of a very small straw was spinning out of this sinus as from the point of a syringe. The sinus healed at once after this clearing out, and has been well since, now over twenty-five years.

I saw a letter from Dr. Geo. T. Taylor, of Pekin, China, published in the *Philadelphia Medical News*, Oct. 28th, 1893, in which he describes the case of a Chinese boy that had a strangulated hernia in the left scrotal sack, at the age of sixteen years. After sloughing, the boy got well, with an artificial anus through the scrotal sack. He had no treatment whatever. In this letter Dr. Taylor referred to the publication in the same journal, on the 29th April, 1893, of "Original Lectures on Complications of Hernia." "Service of Dr. Forest Willard, M.D., Surgeon to the Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia." I procured that number, and found a series of twelve cases admirably detailed. I send you both these numbers so that, provided you have space and inclination, you may reproduce them.

The first of these cases, Mrs. B., sixty years old, had noticed for fifteen years a small painless swelling in the left groin that remained stationary in size and did not disappear in the recumbent posture. Seven days before seeking advice, a heavy step-ladder in falling struck the tumor, with the result of suppuration and sloughing of a large loop of intestine, without ever having had any symptoms of strangulation; having had daily stools, and no vomiting throughout.

This is a curious case of spontaneous cure, brought on from violence to an old irreducible hernia, and after losing a loop of intestine without strangulation.

The case of J. D. that I have just reported, is also a curious case of spontaneous cure, after losing a four-foot loop of intestine on account of a strangulated hernia, and being now alive and well and strong for more than twenty-five years after the occurrence.

Yours, etc.,

ALFRED BOWLBY.

Waterford, Co. Norfolk, Oct. 6th, 1894.

MEDICAL FORMULÆ.

To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—I regret much to say I have no slashing case of abdominal section to present my readers, but then I am consoled that the life of the general practitioner is not made up solely of operative surgery, but that small matters are to him and his success very important affairs. In the September number of your journal there are two subjects which illustrate my views—the poisoning from bromoform, solely because the bottle was *not shaken*. I think the rule I adopt should be carried out always—to write on the prescription *shake the bottle*. How often is chlorodyne and other things prescribed without this? Indeed, I request the dispenser to keep a printed label for that purpose, and to put it on even if I neglect to say so.

A great number of the present medical journals contain formulæ, some good, some dangerous. Here is one in your September number:

Muriate of cocaine	gr. xv.
Sulphate of atropine	gr. iii.
Sulphate of morphia	gr. iv.
Vaseline	1 oz.