

a considerable swelling. He sent for me, and I at once told him that he had cut through the urethra by the fall on the sleeper, and that the urine had flowed into the areolar tissue of the perineum. I tried to introduce a catheter but could not, for the urethra was completely severed. I now advised to lay open the parts with free incisions, to ensure the speedy evacuation of the urine infiltrated into the parts, and to secure a certain exit from the lower part of the wounded urethra. The man, not feeling satisfied with my description, and having a great dread of the knife, preferred sending for another medical gentleman. After this person had examined the patient he declared the man had a stricture, although the patient positively assured him that he never had the least difficulty of making his water prior to the accident; still, however, he persisted in his endeavours to introduce the bougie, but was foiled in his attempts to relieve him by these means. When we met the next day he consented to the course I had proposed; but now the scrotum and perineum were distended to the utmost with urine. The only course I could now pursue was to make very free incisions so as to evacuate the urine, and to be sure that my opening had reached the wound in the urethra, so as to insure a free exit of any more urine that might be passed. Fomentations and poultices were now applied, considerable sloughing of the parts took place, but by degrees the irritation subsided; having watched my opportunity, when the man was passing his urine, I introduced a probe into the lower opening of the urethra, I then passed a silver catheter down the anterior portion of the urethra, and pushed into the bladder; by degrees the wound healed kindly, and the free passage of the urethra was established without fistula or stricture remaining. Here you see a more formidable consequence, the result of this injury of the perineum; here you may observe that nothing but the knife could possibly have saved the patient; for had the urine been allowed to remain, by temporising and delay, the infiltrated parts would have been killed, nay, the urine would soon have found its way among the muscles of the hip, leaving terrible fistulas; or it may have passed into the peivis, exciting abdominal inflammation and causing the death of the patient.

Again: I may point out to you another cause of inflammation and abscess in the perineum. A man has had a clap, which, perhaps, has been neglected; the inflammatory action travels down towards the neck of the bladder: the inflammation causes pain in the perineum, but this is disregarded until, perhaps, months after the acute stage of