

Senn of Milwaukee, at the International Congress held last year in Washington, read a remarkable paper on "Intestinal Surgery." His experiments were made on dogs, and he showed how gunshot wounds of the intestines could be healed by omental grafting, with or without scarification of the serous surfaces.* Dr. Senn has also quite recently devised a method for the detection of perforating wounds of the intestines, by means of hydrogen gas insufflated per rectum; the escape of the gas from the abdominal wound can be recognized by its inflammability, and this, of course, is proof positive that the intestine has been perforated.

At the meeting of the British Medical Association held in Dublin last year, some admirable papers on the *radical cure of hernia* were read by such surgeons as Macewen of Glasgow, Mitchell Banks of Liverpool, Ball of Dublin, Barker of London, etc. The results of operations by excision of the sac and stitching up the wound were most encouraging. Macewen reported sixty-five cases operated on by his method, without a death, and only one failure. Banks, who was one of the first advocates of this method of operation, reported 106 cases; Ball, 22 cases without a death, and Barker 35. Macewen does not excise the sac, but after reducing the hernia makes use of the sac as a pad, by drawing it up through the internal ring and fixing it there. Banks, Barker, and others advise excision of the sac and fixing the stump at the internal ring, whilst Ball's method consists in torsion of the sac before excising. The open method has been advocated on this continent by McBurney of New York. French surgeons, after ligature and excision of the sac, do not advocate closing the inguinal canal by sutures, as is done by English and German surgeons. My experience in this operation has been small, but some months ago I operated on a very formidable case, the details of which I shall venture to mention. A blacksmith, aged 52, had an enormous, irreducible, scrotal hernia of the left side, from which he had suffered for many years. The tumor had become so large that he could not wear trousers or follow his occupation. He was, besides; a rather corpulent man and a hard drinker. I performed the operation

* Meeting of the American Medical Association, 1888.