

notice in numerous instances; indeed in nearly all the cases in which there was a decided dilatation of the spermatic veins on one side only, the testicle on that side was the smaller of the two." Barwell, who has had a large experience in such cases, believes that the testicle from which the varicocele springs "is not of much use." Erichsen states that varicocele is frequently accompanied by debility of the generative organs and a tendency to seminal emissions and much mental depression. But he points out another danger which attends the presence of varicocele, namely, rupture of one of the distended veins, an accident similar to the bursting of a varix in the leg. One case of this kind, reported by Erichsen, proved fatal from syncope. Van Buren and Keyes write regarding the disease in a somewhat similar strain. So I think it can be proved that varicocele in its more aggravated form is capable of inducing serious pathological changes in the testicle, and hence frequently demands surgical interference.

But even if these changes were not so serious—if it were only for the relief of the pain, dragging sensation, and mental worry which varicocele so often induces, operative measures would still be justifiable. Besides, a very small varicocele often debars the possessor from exercise needful to health, and is a frequent cause of disqualification from active service. I find that during the ten years ending 1853 some four thousand British recruits, or 70.5 per thousand, were rejected for varicocele—a greater number, indeed, than the rejections for hernia. Of French recruits examined in the ten years from 1850 to 1860, 20,550, or 10.05 per thousand, were exempted for varicocele. It must be remembered, however, that the standard of height in the French army is below that in the English, and it is a well known fact that varicocele is much more frequent in tall than short men, the reason being obvious.

I have alluded to the fact that the mental condition of many of those suffering from varicocele is peculiar. Its presence has often a most depressing influence, and I know few affections in which the attention of the person is so concentrated upon his malady as in this. The constant weight in the scrotum, and the