

or shorter time. One hour's immersion will make it last a fortnight, two hours, a month, one day, three months, and so on. The author however has been so well satisfied with silk worm gut that he has only a few times used chromacized catgut in the abdominal incision, although he has used it extensively in plastic work, and he is therefore unable to state from actual experience the length of time it requires for the above mentioned catgut to be absorbed in the abdominal incision.

Another factor in preventing ventral hernia is the keeping of the patients in bed one month after their operations, and the wearing of an abdominal supporter for one year. Both of these precautions are unnecessary in cases in which the middle layer is closed with permanent sutures; the writer frequently allows these cases to be up in from ten to twenty days and to go home in from twenty to thirty. There is absolutely nothing that the patient could do that could cause the incision to open; and as the sutures are as strong at the end of a year as they were at the beginning, there is no need to wear a band at all. This is quite a boon, as many patients complain a good deal of the annoyance of having to wear an abdominal belt. When through sutures are used and they are left in a month, the period during which it is necessary to keep the patients in bed is very much lessened. One of the writer's patients against his will left his private hospital twelve days after an abdominal section for tubal pregnancy, because her children were stricken with an epidemic disease. This lady was none the worse for her indiscretion, and she walked into his office three weeks later to have the stitches removed. Many others for various reasons have gone home in two weeks and come back at the end of thirty days to have their stitches removed. All these patients who have temporary stitches, although they have no need to wear a bandage while the sutures are in, are all carefully enjoined to wear one from the time that they are removed.

If after what the writer has said any one will still persist in removing through and through stitches in from five to ten days, then he should be most careful not only to keep his patients in bed for one month and firmly bandaged, but