

The Operative Treatment of Inguinal Hernia 31

abdominal ring is distinctly seen and the vas and veins are quite separate from it in this region. The whole sac is now completely free and is ready for removal (Fig. 9). There is no difficulty in separating the lower end of the sac, even if this extends down to the level of the tunica vaginalis, for, by traction, even the upper end of the tunica vaginalis may be drawn up through the external ring, and, if this be of sufficient size, even the testicle may be

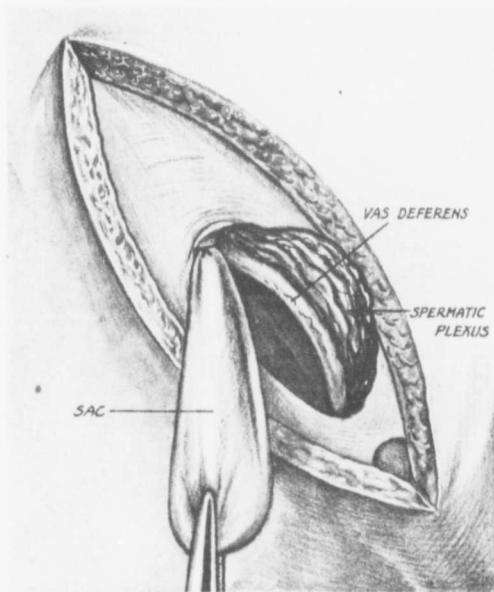


FIG. 9.

brought up into the field of operation. It is of interest to note that in these manipulations the external abdominal ring will never be split open, owing to the action of the intercolumar ligament, though there may be some splitting of the aponeurosis in the opposite direction. It will be well here to repeat that it is necessary during separation that the sac shall be empty. The sac is more difficult to identify, and is much more liable to be lacerated, if it is occupied by a piece of omentum.

(7) *Removal of the Sac.*—If there be any doubt as to whether