

urethra to 34 (French). There was only the one stricture—that at the root of the penis—and no difficulty was experienced in the operation. As the stricture was so far forward, the rectum was not examined before nor at the time of the operation, although the patient complained of uneasiness about the neck of the bladder, which was at the time attributed to the prolonged retention. On the following day (the 7th) he was somewhat better, but complained more of pain about the anus. From the perineum there was considerable tenderness on pressure over the region of the prostate, but no swelling nor sign of infiltration. Urine passing freely. Temperature 102°F.

*Sept. 8th.*—Patient complained of diarrhoea; pain and fever persisting. No further examination was made until the 12th, six days after operation, when the rectum was explored, the patient being anæsthetized for this purpose. The anus was red and swollen, and on introducing the finger the rectum was found to be surrounded by suppuration, which separated it from the bony pelvis as far as the finger could reach and also from the sphincter ani posteriorly and laterally, so that the finger could be introduced between the bowel and the sacrum and ischia. The sphincter was then cut through posteriorly so as to allow a freer escape of inflammatory products and the cavity washed out with a warm sublimated solution. The washing was continued daily, and three days later a large piece of the rectum was found lying loose and completely separated, and was easily withdrawn. This piece of gut measured four inches in length and from an inch and three-quarters to two and a half in width, and consisted of the posterior and lateral walls of the gut from close upon the prostate on the left side around to the right side, but not reaching to the prostate on the right. Much sloughy cellular tissue also came away, and from this time the patient's condition rapidly improved until the 24th of October, when he left the hospital to join one of the outgoing vessels as an able seaman. The wound seemed to be quite healed at this time, the deficiency in the rectum being filled with cicatricial tissue. Defecation and micturition were normally performed, and the urethra admitted a No. 34 sound without difficulty.