

The Operative Treatment of Inguinal Hernia 23

smaller and more delicate. The operation may be described in the following stages.

(1) *Preliminary Preparation.*—This will be on the usual lines, according to the practice of the surgeon. For the past five years I have always used a solution of 2 per cent. picric acid in methylated spirit for sterilising the patient's skin, and have found

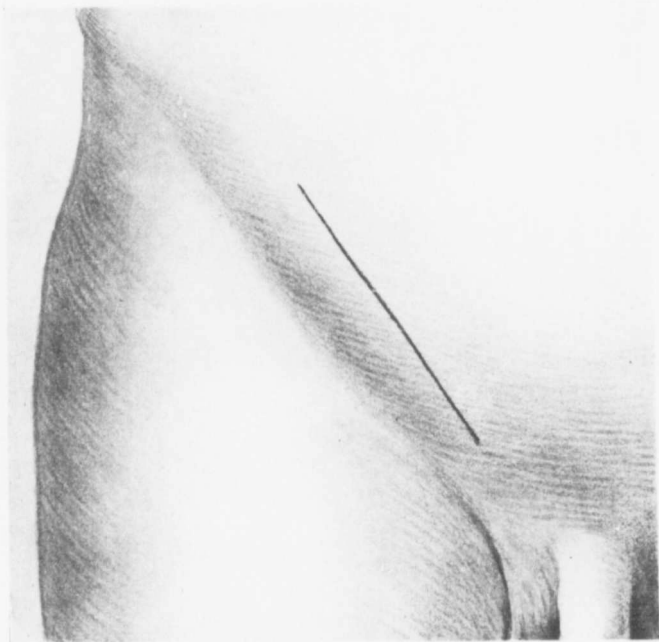


FIG. 3.

it perfectly satisfactory. One important advantage that it has over tincture of iodine is that it is less irritating to the sensitive skin of the scrotum. This is of special importance in children, who are apt to put their hands under the sterile pad after preparation by the iodine method and scratch to relieve the irritation.

(2) *The Skin Incision* (Fig. 3).—This is at a slightly higher level, and, hence, further from the groin than in Bassini's operation. The incision is about three inches in length, and runs