

stone in the bladder is of more frequent occurrence than any other county in England.

Another circumstance connected with this case, and stated by the mother, was that the child had from birth suffered more or less in passing water. When an infant of a week or ten days old it had suffered from complete retention for the greater part of forty-eight hours. The bladder was considerably distended, and a medical gentleman had passed in a catheter and removed the urine. This points to the fact of the formation of a small calculus, most likely in the kidneys, during intra uterine life, and that this calculus became impacted in some portion of the urethra, or possibly had become lodged at the opening of the urethra into the bladder, and had given rise to the obstruction and retention of urine noticed. This is the more probable when we consider the size of the stone removed, and also its composition.

In April, 1867, another case of stone presented itself in the person of a little boy aged six years, a soldier's child, who had shown symptoms of stone for two years. I performed the lateral operation on this boy on the 4th May of that year. In this case an accident occurred which was unavoidable. As I was incising the prostatic portion of the urethra, the lower portion of the rectum became distended with liquid fœces, and, in consequence, the bowel was wounded, the liquid poured out of the wound in considerable quantity. The wound in the bowel was sufficiently large to admit the point of my finger; the stone was removed, and it proved to be a large uric acid calculus weighing half an ounce. Everything progressed favourably, but I was somewhat doubtful as to the result of the wound in the rectum. The child, however, made a rapid recovery, and before he left the hospital I examined the rectum and found that the wound had closed, leaving a cicatrix of about half an inch in extent.

Sir William Fergusson, in his lectures on the progress of anatomy and surgery, delivered before the Royal College of Surgeons in 1864 and '65, states that wound of the rectum is of little moment as regards the final results of the operation, and adds that the accident has occurred to him frequently, and he has recognized it as having occurred in cases where suspicion of such an occurrence did not exist at the time of the operation. In this case the cause was sufficiently apparent, but I deem it of importance to draw attention to the fact as implying that however carefully an operation may be performed wound of the rectum may result, and furthermore, that even though such an accident should occur it is not necessarily followed by permanent injury to the parts.

The next case which came under my observation was in a child