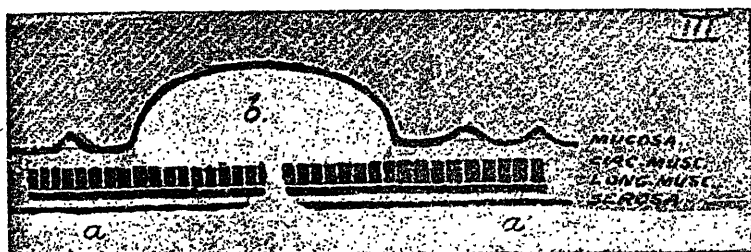


with localized abscess formation which had developed some eight weeks before death. The operation had not taken place until about a month after the beginning of the condition and at the time of operation already there had been perforation of the ileum and the caecum in the neighbourhood of the pus collections, so that when the pus was drawn out of the groin, faeces passed out freely as well and continued to pass. Clearly also, whether as a secondary infection or as an original condition, the collections of pus had become somewhat extensive so that there were two almost, or completely, walled in collections, one in the pelvis, the other to the inner side of the caecum. I could not make



(3) Schematic representation of the mode of development of the ulcer. *a.*, peritoneal pus. *b.*, distension of the mucosa by pressure of pus in the sub-mucous tissue.

absolutely sure at the autopsy whether these connected freely with the original collection in the appendix region. The pelvic abscess appeared to do so; the other not.

The important point is that the ulcerations corresponded with these pus collections and I can only explain the appearance of these ulcerations with their curious mace-like covering of mucosa by supposing that the pus organisms had affected the serous coats of the bowel leading to the ulceration of the same, that the infection had then spread into the loose and vascular sub-mucosa; that here there had been an extensive distension of the part either through pressure of the pus from without or by the development of a distinct submucous abscess and that, as a final stage, the mucosa thus distended was cut off from its blood supply, had become eroded and perforated at several points, the pus now pouring into the lumen of the bowel.

No other course of events could, it seems to me, have led to this peculiar appearance of the bowel wall.

In May, 1900, I brought a somewhat parallel case before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society. It was a curious case, one that I never felt satisfied that I had wholly fathomed. It was that of a woman of fifty-seven, a patient of Dr. Bell's, who had