

ting and treating all kinds of diseases, some so very rare that the general practitioner seldom, if ever, runs across them, very little attention is paid to the diseases of the rectum and anus; and the doctor is sent out unprepared to administer to that part of the body which is so frequently the seat of the most annoying and painful affections, attacking both sexes, the well-to-do as well as the poor, at all ages and in all walks of life.

Second: Patients come all prepared to the physician with a diagnosis of "piles" and the physician very eagerly takes the diagnosis of the patient for granted and, without further examination, prescribes some salve or suppositories and feels that he has done his duty towards his patient.

Third: The objection on the part of some patients to submit to a thorough examination. This objection arises principally in over-modest women, young girls and some very timid men.

Fourth: The repugnance on the part of some physicians to examine the ano-rectal region for fear of soiling their hands.

Fissura ani, or painful ulcer, is a superficial tear in the mucous membrane lining the anus, which is checked at the muco-cutaneous junction, and is always characterized by an acute pain transferred to all parts in the vicinity of the anus, due to spasmodic contractions of the sphincter muscle.

Fissure can be found in the young and the old, but is more common in women than in men, because women are the more common sufferers of constipation and because the skin is of finer texture. It occurs more frequently in the poor than in the rich, and may be single or multiple, although generally single. When of venereal origin, there may be two or three. Fissure may be large or small and superficial, involving only the mucous membrane, or deep and reaching to the fibres of the sphincter muscle.

Fissures always run parallel to the long axis of the bowel, and in 90% to 95% of all cases the fissure is located in the posterior anal commissure, occasionally at the anterior commissure and very rarely at the sides of the anus.

When a fissure is situated anteriorly it usually occurs in women, chiefly in women who have had children, resulting in a greater amount of laxity of the perineum and allowing a tear of