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SOME CASES OF INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION AND STRANGULATED HERNIA AND THEIR TREATMENT.*

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Since the summer of 1896 several cases of intestinal obstruction and strangulated hernia have come under my observation from among the insane patients, the employees or their families.

The seven cases that will be detailed represent four varieties of obstruction usually met with, and are as follows: a volvulus, an intussusception, fecal accumulation, and adhesive bands and three cases of strangulated hernia.

It may be said that a correct diagnosis, during the early stages of obstruction, was rendered difficult in those occurring among the insane, owing to their insensitive condition and delusional reasoning and that we had to depend almost entirely upon a physical examination.

CASE 1.—*Intussusception*.—At noon on September 29th, 1896, I was called to see the seven months' old son of one of our attendants. I found him well nourished and quite a sturdy little fellow. According to the mother's statement the child had had a fair-sized stool that morning, which, however, was succeeded by an attack of vomiting together with evidences of pain and restlessness and followed later on with mucus and bloody discharges from the rectum. Being in a hurry to get back to some operative work I had in hand I made a cursory examination noticing only a slight bloody mucus discharge

* Read before the London Medical Association, on Monday evening, April 9th, 1900.