

## OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

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## HERNIA IN CHILDHOOD.

Edred M. Corner, M.B., writes on "The Most Frequent Hernia in Childhood and its Significance," in *Am. Jour. Med. Sc.*, June, 1907.

The author, believing that the majority of herniæ in children are acquired and not congenital, has continued an investigation begun some years ago, and with the assistance of several gentlemen, has made a survey in the out-patient's department of the Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Seven hundred cases had been observed and recorded in the first series when a new system was found to be necessary. This first investigation showed that multiple herniæ are far more frequent in children than they are in adults. Single herniæ were found in 66 per cent., multiple herniæ in 34 per cent. In this first investigation they had failed to take into consideration hernial protrusions between the divaricated recti.

The demonstration of the latter form of herniæ in children requires some little skill and tact. The author suggests that if the child be held in its mother's lap in an extended position and that the head be supported with one hand, which at first raises it and then allows it to fall backward two or three inches. If a median ventral hernia is present a carinate projection will appear above the umbilicus. This hernia was found in the collective investigation of the author in 24.21 per cent. out of 2,600 cases. The more carefully the hernia is looked for the more frequently will it be found.

Median ventral hernia may be congenital or acquired. It is not unknown in the newly born, though very uncommon. The hernia appears as a direct result of increased intra-abdominal pressure; and as the result of the continuance of the raised pressure upon the growth of the tissues in the linea alba.

In 201 observations on children between birth and one year of age, a median ventral hernia between the divaricated recti was found in 18.5 per cent., being more frequent among the older infants. But one case was found in 122 infants varying from 1 to 39 days old examined at the Queen Charlotte's Hospital. At Great Ormond Street Hospital bulging between the divaricated recti was found in 34 per cent. infants under 6 months of age and in 58 per cent. between 6 months and one year of age.