

needle, still threaded, withdrawn through all the structures except the temporarily invaginated skin. The finger being carefully maintained *in situ*, the gut on the concave surface of the needle is slightly pulled by the assistant, while that already seized is firmly held. This facilitates the turning of the needle, and transfixion of the outer pillar (Poupart's ligament). This being accomplished, the skin of the abdomen is drawn towards the crest of the ilium, and the needle passed through the original aperture unthreaded, and the finger and it are withdrawn. There is, therefore, one scrotal and one abdominal aperture, the latter directly above the aperture of exit of the hernia. Nothing now remains but to tie firmly home the two ends of the salmon-gut, cut it short, and let it drop into the wound. A pad and spleen bandage are applied, a dose of opium is given, and the patient kept in bed until the parts are well matted together. The knot of salmon-gut will either become encysted or come away, it matters little which; in either case the approximation of the pillars is certain. It is satisfactory to the operator that the assistant should pass his finger up to the internal ring, when he can distinctly feel it grasped as the ligature is tightened. It is absolutely necessary that the salmon-gut should be soaked in warm water for five minutes before being used, and that long thread should be selected. The needle should be threaded from the concave side. Dr. Best states that he has performed the operation three times, twice with complete success; the third patient was refractory.—*The Lancet*.

PUNCTURE IN GASTRO-INTESTINAL AND PERITONEAL PNEUMATOSIS.—Dr. Fossagrives says that this operation is practised often in Bolivia, especially in veterinary medicine. It ought to be practised with a grooved needle, but a simple hydrocolo trocar may be used in emergencies. If the pneumatosis is reproduced, the operation is repeated, but it is dangerous to leave in the canula any time. Dr. F. relates some cases to prove the prompt utility of the practice, and its innocuousness in the case of gastro-intestinal pneumatosis, especially when the diaphragm is pushed up by the collection of gas, so as to render asphyxia imminent. In an old man subject to constipation, and threatened with