

respirations fell from 50 to 36 per minute. No ill effect followed the operation. The patient succumbed, however, from the lung complications thirty-six hours after. As to the source of the gas, Mr. Brown dismissed the idea of perforation of the intestine on the following grounds, viz. :—1. The gradual development of the gas in the peritoneal cavity. 2. Absence of symptoms of collapse which might have been expected had perforation taken place. 3. The fact that the tympanitic condition of the colon and small intestines was unrelieved by the operation. Had perforation existed, gas would probably have continued to escape into the peritoneal cavity after the operation, but of this there was no evidence, although the patient lived thirty-six hours afterwards. 4. The fact that the gas was odourless. Mr. Brown advanced two theories as probable sources of the gas; first, the gas might have passed by diffusion through the intestinal wall; or second, the gas might have been derived directly from the blood by exosmosis through the delicate wall of the peritoneal capillaries—and this was the more probable, from the fact that several days previous to the distension taking place the blood was highly charged with carbonic acid gas in consequence of imperfect aëration in the lungs. Mr. Brown said he was unable to decide this point, and preferred to merely record the case in the hope that other observers would be able to throw more light upon the subject should similar cases occur in their practices.—*Medical Times*.

Amussat's Operation in a case of Imperforate Rectum. — Mr. MORRANT BAKER read notes of a case of imperforate rectum, for which Amussat's operation was performed, in a female infant, who, when nineteen days old, came under the care of Mr. Morrant Baker at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. When first seen, the abdomen was enormously distended; there was frequent vomiting, and the child was much exhausted. Chloroform having been administered, an attempt was made to find the lower end of the bowel, through the short *cul-de-sac* which represented the anus. The bowel, however, could not be found, notwithstanding very free