

MELANO-SARCOMA OF THE FEMALE URETHRA.

THIS is a very rare condition—four cases only, having been reported. (Operative Gynæcology, Kelly.) One by Beigel, 1875; a second by Ehrendorfer, 1892; a third by Galabin and a fourth by Reed, 1896. I have deemed it therefore of sufficient interest to record the following case:—

In July of last year a Mrs. H. consulted me with a history of having been “running down” for some six months. She was a pale, delicate looking woman, about 46 years of age, married, and had borne six children. After ordinary investigation I could not discover sufficient evidence to satisfy myself as to the cause of the depressed state in which I found her, and on making a vaginal examination I found a dark soft mass about the size of an almond projecting from the meatus urinarius, and so closely resembling a blood clot that I at first thought it was an elongated clot occupying the urethra and protruding through the meatus, but on attempting to withdraw it, however, it was found to be adherent to the urethra. A small portion was removed with scissors and submitted to Dr. W. T. Connell, who pronounced it a melanotic sarcoma.

As she was quite willing, when the gravity of the case had been explained, to have it removed, I operated on her at the General Hospital on Sept. 2nd last. A circular incision was made close to and surrounding the meatus; the mucous, submucous and muscular coats of the urethra were drawn down as far as possible, and the growth, which embraced almost the whole calibre of the canal—the only part free from it being a portion of the anterior wall, was found to extend up almost to the bladder. About an inch of the urethra was removed, leaving only a small portion at its upper end. There was very little hemorrhage during the operation, and, what there was, required the application of two pairs of forceps only, since the venous sinuses of this canal lie partly in the submucous and partly in the muscular coats, and, since these were drawn down together, the hemorrhage that did occur was only when the canal was transversely divided.