

plainly felt, and the upper limit of the disease was easily detected. On the left side of the rectum, about an inch and a half above the anus, a lymphatic gland was found as large as a small walnut connected with the rectum by lymphatics; this was easily dissected out from the loose cellular tissue in which it was imbedded, but it was left attached to the rectum. It was not at all difficult now to free the rectum all the way round in the pelvis, but at the lower end it was of course, held firmly by its union with the sphincter ani and levator ani. As I was particularly anxious that she should retain control of the fæces I determined to leave the sphincter and levator ani, and therefore ran a sharp knife around the rectum between it and these muscles, thus freeing completely the lowest four inches of the bowel, which was then dragged down by pushing the peritoneum upwards and detaching it from its loose cellular surroundings until all the diseased portion could be brought lower than the level of the anus. It was then clamped an inch higher than the disease extended, and cut off about half an inch above the disease in perfectly healthy tissue. Before removing the clamp eight catgut stitches were passed from the skin of the anus to the margin of the rectum, and when the clamp was removed these were tied, thus bringing the rectum snugly down to the skin. The sphincter ani was then sewed together, and the vagina and perineum also sewed up with running catgut, and when the operation was completed it had exactly the same appearance as if the patient had had an operation for lacerated perineum and hæmorrhoids.

*Result.*—This was very satisfactory. From the day of the operation she has been entirely free from the distressing bearing-down pain, and has gained flesh. She has complete control of her bowels even when they are liquid, and she can also hold wind, and she is not only able to do her house-work but even to assist her husband in the store.

Although some might criticise the course pursued by saying that I should have removed the sphincter ani and levator ani, I feel convinced that it would almost be better to do nothing at all than to leave the woman in such a dis-