

enough to allow omentum to pass, or the opening or openings may be so minute as only to allow fluid to come through by drops. These cases are always puzzling. A man presents himself with a tumour in the groin, having a history of reducibility on lying down, but of recurrence on moving about. Sometimes the tumour is tender to the touch, and handling it causes nausea and other sensations. On trying to reduce it one finds that this is not possible. In one of the cases related below it seemed as if the young man had a third testicle on the left side. The lump was tender on pressure, non-fluctuating, and squeezing it gave the same sensation as compression of the testicle; yet he said that this tumour never was present in the morning on getting up and that after moving about for some hours it reappeared. On cutting down on the tumour a funicular process of peritoneum was found connected with the general peritoneal cavity through the internal ring by a hollow, stalk-like process, and the communication between the sac and the peritoneum was so small that fluid could only be squeezed through by drops; hence the impossibility of reduction and the reason of the gradual formation of the tumour on going about. In another case the same condition existed in a female child in connection with the round ligament. The funicular process of peritoneum (the canal of Nuck) which accompanies the round ligament into the inguinal canal had never been obliterated. There was a largish tumour, very tender, which disappeared after the child had been lying down for some time, but always reappeared on moving about. Here the same condition was found, a sac with a stalk-like process connecting it with the peritoneal cavity, the opening being so small as to be almost invisible. The shape of the sac was very like a Florence flask.

In cases where the opening is larger omentum may be found in the sac as well as fluid. Such a case is reported below, where a small piece of omentum was attached to the bottom of the sac and where the patient had worn a truss for years with great discomfort and had frequent attacks of pain, vomiting and purging. When the omentum and sac were removed these all disappeared. It is not uncommon to find in young male infants a swelling in the groin which gives the mother considerable uneasiness. This usually comes on suddenly, is of considerable size, may be tender on pressure, but it is fluctuating and transmits light. In such cases the obliteration of the sac at the internal ring, I take it, has not been sufficiently solid, and during the strain of crying perhaps it has given way sufficiently to allow peritoneal fluid to percolate through into the yet unobliterated tube of peritoneum. In fact, a funicular process is thus sometimes established. These cases need excite no alarm and usually get well if left alone.