

and no return of the disease in any. The operation may be described in Mr. Smith's own words, thus, "simply to puncture the tumor with a common suture needle armed with a single thread and having brought the thread out at a distance of one or two inches from the point of entrance, it is disengaged from the needle, and the two ends are tied lightly together." He further advises that this thread, as a rule, may be left in from eight to ten days, and at any time, if the inflammation seems inclined to fall short of the degree required, it may be increased by moving the thread.

As I have recently completed a cure by this method, I will detail partially the progress of the case, that your readers may with me form opinions respecting its value, as compared with the treatment by injection, and adopt it or reject it, as it seems to them to deserve.

The patient, aged about 41, was healthy in other respects, and attributed his hydrocele to a fall which he got astride a fence, by which the posterior part of the scrotum and perineum on the right side, were considerably bruised.

When I first saw the case, on the 16th of March, 1870, it had been in existence over a year; the right side of the scrotum was nearly as large as a quart pot, and yielded on tapping over twenty ounces of fluid.

I urged him then to return when it became partially filled again, that I might proceed with the radical cure by injection, but I saw him no more till the 6th of Aug, when he came back, with his scrotum enormously distended. I tapped it once more, and over sixteen ounces of fluid escaped; still he would not submit to treatment for a radical cure, alleging as an excuse, that he "had not time to lay by."

On the 22nd, Febr, 1871, the patient presented himself again with the tumor about as large as at the latter tapping, and expressed himself anxious to have a final cure made, as the swelling was becoming so troublesome that he could not attend to his business, and on having the two methods of procedure explained to him, he was decidedly in favor of the operation by seton. In obedience to his wishes, and my own desire to test this plan of cure, I carried out Mr. Smith's directions, as fully and accurately as circumstances would permit. The operation itself was a very trifling matter, no immediate