

The operation was proceeded with, however, and on the bowel being reached we found that the hernia was femoral, as we had diagnosed, but of the Richter-type, only part of the lumen being shut off, although the obstruction was absolute. I had felt rather small over missing my diagnosis when I first called. Now, however, my feelings were somewhat mollified, as the books say that this type of hernia often offers difficulty in diagnosis.

We also found that the strangulated gut was very dark, if not black, in color. The remainder of the cross section was in quite good condition.

Now what was to be done? Dr. McKay was doing the operation, but the case being mine, wished to do as I desired. The anæsthetist called our attention to the fact that the patient was doing badly. A council of war was quickly held. We were not prepared for a reaction. All conditions were unfavorable. We decided that we would have less to account for if we returned the bowel. He would certainly not stand a reaction.

The bowel was returned and stimulation applied to patient. The condition of surroundings would not permit even an attempt at an operation for radical cure. Suture would not hold. We firmly believed that ere forty-eight hours elapsed the cure would be radical enough for all practical purposes.

The patient was now put to bed and warmth and other means used to stimulate and support. Strict orders were given to the attendant regarding diet, quietness and cleanliness. Next-day we called and found that the father was feeling quite well. Had been sitting up a little, eating a little, smoking a little, and evacuating his bowels a little, but had gone back to bed; where we would find him.

One's feelings and language under these conditions can be better imagined than described.

Yes, gentlemen, and each day following for nine or ten days, this man took his regular food. Took his proverbial salts and cream of tartar regularly. Had three or four stools, and each time, until he got too weak, he got out on his night stool to do so.

I may say that my brother, a fourth year medical student, did the dressings for me, during this time, and we both know all these things to be true and the half has not been told.

You will ask why was this allowed to go on? You would need to be on the ground in order to understand.