

tion a large smooth, firm tumour was found on the right side of the abdomen, extending from the costal cartilages to the iliac fossa. The diagnosis of sarcoma or carcinoma of liver was made. An exploratory operation was performed, and the tumour was found to be an enlarged right lobe of the liver, pale in colour, with violaceous marblings. Enlarged glands were found in the hepatic omentum. Punctures were made but revealed nothing. The result was immediate and surprising; in three days the child regained appetite and cheerfulness, the liver rapidly decreased in size and returned to normal in two months. The character of the enlarged liver was revealed later, when syphilitic gummata appeared on forehead and scalp.

Dr. Wm. White, in the elaborate article in the *Annals of Surgery*, referred to above, cites many cases where exploratory abdominal incision relieved symptoms of pain, vomiting, &c., and also some cases of tumour, which shrank away after operation, although at the time the operator considered them malignant and gave a hopeless prognosis.

Prof. Von Mosetig, of Vienna, in 1888, showed a case where he had performed exploratory laparotomy some time before for a tumour which filled the whole pelvis; it was quite fixed, and removal was not attempted, so the wound was closed. To his surprise, when examined 14 days later, he found the tumour had shrunk to half its former size, and it continued to diminish, so that when shown to the Imperial Society of Physicians at Vienna, it was no larger than a man's fist. He thought the disappearance might be due to the intense hyperæmia observed during the operation; in the same way sometimes sarcomata may disappear under the influence of severe erysipelas. Cases also occur where, for a time, in malignant cases great improvement takes place as the result of exploration, but these cases always relapse and the patient soon succumbs.

In this connection I shall now relate a case of which I had personal experience. It is as follows:—

In October, 1891, I was consulted by Mrs. B., a nurse, æt. 28, spare in habit and of a sanguine temperament, for a tumour she had recently felt in the neighbourhood of the umbilicus.