

case in the adult, and will generally admit, after meatotomy, a No. 16 (French) lithotrite. Among other objections to lithotomy may be urged the fact that there are reported cases of emasculation following the perineal cut, and that statistics show a greater mortality than obtains in the crushing operation. The author believes the following conclusions in regard to the choice of operation in male children justifiable:—

1. In every case of calculus in male children litholapaxy, on account of ease of performance, low mortality, speedy recovery, and absence of danger of emasculation, should be the operation of predilection, division of the meatus being freely resorted to if that portion of the urethra offers an obstacle to the introduction of instruments.

2. The lithotrite and evacuating tube should be of a size which can be inserted into the bladder without much effort or over-distention, and great gentleness should be observed in passing these instruments.

3. They should be withdrawn and reintroduced as seldom as possible, the stone being finely pulverized before the lithotrite is taken out at all. In seeking for or attempting to seize the stone, care should be taken to avoid such wide separation of the blades as will bring the male blade in frequent contact with the vesical neck. The crushing should invariably be done only after rotating the blades into the centre of the bladder. Every particle of the calculous dust should be evacuated.

4. Rest in bed, milk diet, and sterilization of the urine by boric acid or salol given internally both before and after the operation are valuable adjuvants. During the operation every antiseptic precaution should be observed.

5. The exceptional cases of calculi which are both large and hard may be best treated by suprapubic lithotomy, but neither unusual size nor a moderate degree of density should of itself alone be thought positively to contraindicate litholapaxy.

6. Perineal lithotomy has now a very limited field, and should be employed chiefly in those cases of stones thought to be of small or medium size in which no lithotrite, however small, can be introduced with safety.—*Amer. Jour. Med. Sciences.*

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