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ART. I.—“*The new method of reducing Strangulated Hernia.*” By WOLFRED NELSON, M.D., Montreal.

The subject of reducing Hernia by suspending the patient by the legs, has frequently of late, been alluded to in the *London Lancet*, and is viewed by some as a very cunning and very novel practice. Now, this is a practice as “old as the hills;” nor is this to be marvelled at, seeing that common sense would lead one to suppose that by inverting the position of the intestines, the protruded portion would be drawn inwards by the weight of the bowels. This would seem to be a natural inference. However this may be, I can assert that this *novel* practice has often been adopted by the *habitans* or Canadian farmers, and not seldom with success, especially in old cases, and when the scrotal tumour has been very large, in which cases the abdominal ring is greatly dilated, its course direct and short.

In proof that this practice has long obtained, I beg to mention the following case which occurred in the first year of my practice. In the month of March, 1811, I was requested to see a man who was reported to be dying from strangulated scrotal hernia. The patient was over sixty years of age, and had for a long time been afflicted with this hernia, which generally yielded to a good shaking or being held up by the heels; but, on this occasion, the procedure did not succeed, notwithstanding, to repeat the words of his friends, they had given him a thorough shaking in this wise:—“*Deux hommes ont monté sur une table, l'ont pris par les jambes, et l'ont secoué fortement, mais les tripes n'ont pas rentrées comme elles le faisaient auparavant.*” “Two men stood upon a table and took him by the heels, and shook and jerked him right soundly, yet the guts would not go back, as they usually did.”

I may as well relate this case, though I published it many years ago in the *Boston Medical Journal*. My proceeding in this instance, I believe, was indeed novel, at least I had never heard of the like before. The man had incessant vomiting, occasional hiccough; the scrotum exceedingly tender, and about the size of an ordinary bladder. Gentle, methodical, and persevering pressure, together with the application of ice, and a large dose of laudanum proved ineffectual. I told the patient and friends that the only chance—and that a slen-