

to operate early, while her general health and strength were still unimpaired, or to wait until the disease had begun to tell seriously upon both.

If the operation were one not attended by much danger, there can be no doubt that the sooner the operation were performed the better; but when we reflect, that even in favourable cases the mortality is great, it becomes a serious question whether we are justified in recommending such a risk, so long as the patient enjoys a moderate degree of health and comfort.

On the other hand, there are risks to be incurred by deferring the operation to too late a stage, such as the bursting of the sac, (which occurred in one of my former cases, and nearly proved fatal by collapse,) inflammation with adhesion, extreme debility, &c., &c., and which would seriously interfere with the success of an operation undertaken at this stage.

To my mind, therefore, the safest course seems to lie between these two extremes, neither risking a dangerous operation at a stage when the patient's health and comfort are scarcely impaired, nor deferring it till the occurrence of serious complications have rendered it almost hopeless.

In accordance with these views, I simply advised her to avoid everything which would tend to promote the growth of the tumour, or to excite inflammation, and to wait patiently for the proper stage for operation.

August 30th, 1869.—I saw her again to-day, just twenty days after my first examination, and found that the circumference of the abdomen had increased one inch, being now $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In other respects the symptoms were unaltered.

July 13th, 1870.—Eleven months from my first visit. No important change has occurred in her condition, except a moderate increase of size. The abdomen now measures $38\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the umbilicus, an increase of six inches in eleven months. Her general health is quite unimpaired, and she is still quite able to attend to her household duties.

May 11th, 1871.—Ten months since last report. Scarcely any change occurred after last report until a few weeks ago, when rather severe pains began to be felt in the left hypochondriac region, particularly after exercise. It was unaccompanied by fever or other inflammatory symptoms, but was sufficiently severe to confine her almost entirely to the sofa, and her health is in consequence beginning to suffer. The growth of the tumour has been remarkably slow during the last ten months, the increase in circumference amounting only to one inch and a half.

As she has now reached that stage when the tumour by its