RADICAL CURE OF HERNIA.

SYMPTOMS OCCURRING SIMULATING PERITONITIS.

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The following case, from symptoms of a peculiar and doubt-ful nature arising during the process of cure, may be worthy of record amongst the numerous other facts that are being elicited in the present day respecting the radical cure of hernia:

S. H., aged seventeen, had been the subject of a direct inguinal hernia, of about the size of a walnut, for three years. It was operated upon by Wood’s method, the only difference being the employment of scissors instead of a knife in the process of the subcutaneous dissection, and the intervention of a circular piece of India-rubber beneath the wooden disc. She progressed very favourably, the wires being withdrawn on the fifth day; the parts then looking well, and all but united by the first intention.

The day following the patient was still doing well. In the evening, about ten P.M., I was informed she was very ill, and, upon seeing her, found her lying upon her back; knees drawn up; countenance anxious; pulse 120; skin hot and parched; complaining of pain all over the abdomen, but chiefly just above the pubis, where she could not bear the slightest pressure. The abdomen was well padded, and there was less pressure than elsewhere. I knew not what to think. The symptoms were those of peritonitis; but how caused I could not conceive. Hot fomentations and large doses of ipecacuanha and opium were administered. In four hours afterwards she was in a profuse perspiration, and somewhat easier; and in another four hours the menstrual discharge appeared for the first time, and very copiously. At the same time all the symptoms rapidly abated, and by morning everything unpleasant had subsided, save that she now had no appetite, and there was a slight suppurative from it. A similar train of symptoms, but much less in degree, again appeared upon the second menstrual flow, which occurred in about two weeks after the first. The radical cure of the hernia was, however, in no wise affected, and is as perfect as could be wished.

I would remark that the use of scissors instead of the knife very much facilitates the subcutaneous dissection of the parts, effecting it much more rapidly and evenly.

Birmingham, September, 1859.

CAN THE GARDEN SLUG LIVE IN THE HUMAN STOMACH?

By DAVID DICKMAN, Esq., M.R.C.S.

SARAH ANN C., aged twelve years, had, for the last two months, complained of feeling sick at times, particularly after meals. On the 5th of August last, she vomited up a large garden slug, which was alive and very active. On the 6th, she brought up two, both alive; and on the night of the 7th she was seized with violent vomiting and relaxation of the bowels, and threw up five more, of various sizes, the smallest two being long, and all alive.

On the morning of the 8th, when I first saw her, vomiting and purging had ceased, and she complained of great pain in the left region of the stomach, and headache. I gave her opiate powders, which relieved her in every way till the afternoon of the 9th, when she felt something crawling up her throat. This sensation brought on the most violent efforts of vomiting to expel what she felt at the upper part of her throat, and she frequently introduced her fingers to seize what she would do the rest when the animal was dead. The dose was repeated every four hours for two days, and afterwards three a day for two days more, with entire success. An ap-