

by cicatricial tissue were only distinguishable as such by their superior smoothness, and the apparent absence of glandular structure when examined *in situ* under a low power. At the former location of the bulbar stricture I was entirely unable to identify the scars either of the old external operation or of the later internal incision. The bridges of tissue constituting the false passages, B and F, seemed equally soft and elastic with the rest of the mucous membrane, and certainly did not in the least diminish the urethral calibre. I should say that the evidence as to external perineal urethrotomy having been performed is solely the statement of the patient, as the asserted locality of the cicatrix of that operation was involved in opening of the perineal fistulæ. I see, however, no reason to doubt that such an operation had been performed.

The case, taken in all its bearings, seems to go far toward proving the permanent curability of urethral stricture, even under most unfavorable circumstances, providing that a free incision of the contractions is made, and kept open for a very short time. Considering the facts as above stated—a double, tight, cartilaginous stricture, exceedingly resilient, as shown by the failure to divulge and by its speedy return after large distention, to which were added the traumatic complication of a previous perineal section, the bad general health and habits of the patient, together with the trifling amount of treatment given after the internal urethrotomy of December 20, 1875—it is evident that if, under such circumstances, so nearly perfect a result is to be attained by intelligent urethrotomy, the problem of the permanent cure of stricture may be deemed as solved.

Lest it may be suggested that the contractions in this case may have been the supposititious syphilitic stricture, I would state that the stricture and fistulæ antedated the syphilitic contagion by several years, and that consequently the anti-syphilitic treatment which the patient received could hardly be thought to have in any way affected the urethral constriction.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, April, 1879.

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