at the time this accident happened to me (January, 1868), the descent of the intestine took place on the right side, and was the result of no unusually violent exertion. During the morning of the day upon which it occurred, I had worked from 11 till 12 o'clock in dressing a fracture; my position in standing being such as to relax the abdominal muscles. I experienced a peculiar feeling of weakness in the inguinal region at the time. I reached my office about noon, and had been there but a few minutes when I was summoned in great haste to an infant who had been poisoned with morphine. In an ordinary case I might have taken some precaution before exerting myself, but I forgot my threatened hernia and hastened to my patient. I worked vigorously over the child, keeping up artificial respiration, &c., my position being the same as with the patient I worked over an hour before—a stooping posture. I soon felt the intestine descend, accompanied with a good deal of pain; yet, considering my patient in infinitely greater danger than I was myself, I continued my efforts until the agony was insupportable. I went home and made every possible effort to reduce the tumor; it was about the size of a goose-egg, and was so tense and hard and fast becoming so tender that I found myself unable to effect anything but torture. I then sent for my friend, Dr. Lilly, who etherized me and attempted reduction, but failed. He desiring assistance, Dr. Griffin was called two hours later; in the mean time severe colicky pains came on, and the tumor was exquisitely tender. This time I was chloroformed and reduction essayed, but with no better success than before. I made up my mind that nothing but the knife would release me, and listened passively to the arrangements for the hot bath. The symptoms not being severe, it was determined, nothing to the contrary, to wait till morning. During the night, copious bilious vomiting took place, and my peritoneum became quite tender; but I got through it with the aid of a couple of grains of morphine—having no other effect, however, than to lull the pain a little.

At about ten o'clock the next morning, having previously prepared for the operation in case of failure, I was put into a full bath of 90° Fah., and hot water introduced till the temperature reached 110°, at which point it was kept till I almost collapsed. While in this condition taxis was employed and the tumor partially reduced; but as the peculiar gurgling sound was not heard and so much oedema left, it was not till the

afternoon that the loop was decided to have entered the abdomen and the operation given up.

My case illustrates the utility of waiting and resorting to every known expedient before operating, when the symptoms are not extremely urgent. Erichsen teaches, to chloroform the patient and try taxis not exceeding half an hour; if not successful, then to operate at once. Of course in severe cases, in which the strangulation has existed for some time, such a proceeding would be eminently proper; but in cases like my own, with no stercoraceous vomiting and comparatively mild symptoms, I should not think it advisable to operate soon after the formation of the hernia, even though reduction could not be effected with the aid of chloroform or ether. This case yielded to the hot bath when those anæsthetics had failed, during the manipulations of the same surgeon.

TREATMENT OF THREATENED ABORTION.

By B. F. TASKER, M.D., Kendall's Mills, Me.

PATIENT, five months advanced, slipped and fell. Commenced flowing the next day. I was called the following day. Found the patient in considerable pain, from which she had suffered since her flowing commenced. She was nervous and excitable, not having rested for thirty-six hours. I had her placed in a cool room upon a mattress, and administered a grain and a half of opium and repeated the dose in two hours; after that, every four hours till the next day. Cool drinks and cool liquid nourishment were taken as required. On the following day I ordered one grain of opium every three hours, and followed up three days till the flowing stopped. I then put her upon iron. She made a good recovery, passed to the allotted time, and was delivered of a full-grown child. I should have said that she had aborted once or twice before.

I have since treated a number of cases in the same way with good success.

November 29, 1869.

THE PARISIAN MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY has appointed certain of its members to investigate the following questions: Poisoning by croton oil; the application of photography, drawing, and various processes of mensuration, to legal medicine; the resistance of newly born children to asphyxia, and tattooing; experimentally, poisoning by phosphorus.—*Dub. Med. Press & Circular.*