CASE OF DOUBLE OBTURATOR HERNIA.

By JOHN BARTON, F.R.C.S. ;

Demonstrator of Anatomy, Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland.

[Read in the Section of Anatomy and Physiology, March 15, 1889.]

CASES of hernia in the obturator canal are not often met with, and I therefore think this case that I met with in the dissecting-room of the Carmichael College this Session worth bringing before this Section.

The subject was an old man, and, like most of the recorded cases, the hernia was discovered accidentally. The student, when drawing the small intestines out of the pelvis, was surprised to find that they were held down, and it required some force to pull them out. He then saw two openings in the wall of the pelvis, and called my attention to the matter.

There is a hernial sac in each obturator canal, that on the right side being slightly the larger ; the sacs admit the last point of the index finger easily, being about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in depth.

On the right side the obturator vessels and nerve are below, and to the outer side of the opening ; on the left the nerve is below and the vessels above, springing from the deep epigastric.

On dissecting the thigh it is seen that the sac has not come through either the ext. obt. mus. or the strong fascia covering it, so that there could not be the least evidence of the existence of the hernia to be found by examining the thigh. The very strong fascia that covers the femoral surface of the obtur. ext. mus. would seem to me to be some explanation of the small size of the hernia usually met with at this opening.

This case differs from most of the recorded cases in three particulars—

1st. Met with in a male ; almost all the recorded cases are females.

2nd. The hernia being double ; there is one similar case in Holmes' System of Surgery.

3rd. The existence of an obturator hernia with an irregular obt. art.

This affection has been known for a long time. One of the earliest articles on the subject that I have been able to find is "Garengeot sur plusieurs hernies singulières meni," *de l'Academ de Chir.*, t. I., 1761. Seven cases are here mentioned—one produced by a fall coming down stairs was reduced by manipulation, and one was successfully operated on, part of the sac being cut off.

There is a very accurate account of a dissection of this hernia by Jules Cloquet, *Patholog. Chirg.*, page 107, 1831 :—A female subject was brought into the dissecting-room with a large tumour in the thigh, which, on dissection, was found to be an obturator hernia.

Sir A. Cooper, on crural hernia, gives a plate of a specimen in St. Thomas's Hospital, found on making a *post-mortem* on a woman, and he says it is the only specimen he knew of.

There is a very full account of this form of hernia in Birkett's article on hernia in Holmes' System of Surgery. Twenty-five cases are alluded to ; fourteen of these were met with on dissection. He mentions that the Fallopian tube and part of the urinary bladder have been found in obturator hernia, also that requeently only part of this calibre of the intestine is in the sac.

There are two specimens in the R. I. C. S. Museum, one presented by Mr. Kirby, and the other by Mr. Croly.