

ART. XXXIII.—*Internal Urethrotomy as a Cure for Urethral Stricture.* By C. H. MASTIN, M.D., Mobile. Written by request for the Medical Association of Alabama, Session of 1871. 8vo. pp. 34. Mobile, 1871.

AFTER an interesting historical sketch of the early applications of internal urethrotomy to the treatment of stricture, Dr. Mastin proceeds to describe the several modes of performing the operation now commonly employed, and gives representations of the various instruments devised for the purpose by the ingenuity of surgeons. The urethrotome which has proved most satisfactory in Dr. Mastin's hands is a combination of "the 'small probe-pointed silver catheter' of Sir Henry Thompson, with the triangular blade of Maisonneuve, guarded by a fixed shield." This, which he calls a "catheter urethrotome," is employed by passing the probe-pointed extremity into the bladder, while the shield rests against the anterior face of the stricture; "having satisfied ourselves that the point of the catheter is within the bladder, which will be proved by a drop of urine appearing after the withdrawal of the mandrin, and that it is not in a false passage, we have only to turn the stop screw, push on the blade, and the stricture is cut."

Dr. Mastin's success in internal urethrotomy appears to have been very great, for he has, he tells us, operated over seventy times, without once meeting with any trouble of consequence. J. A., JR.

ART. XXXIV.—*Annual Report of the Surgeon General, United States Army, 1871.*

FROM this report we glean the following interesting facts:—

"The monthly reports of sick and wounded received at this Office for the fiscal year terminating June 30, 1871, represent an annual average mean strength of 29,365 *white*, and 2608 *colored* troops.

"Among the *white* troops, the total number of cases of all kinds reported as taken on the sick list was 63,507, being at the rate of 2163 per 1000 of mean strength. (That is about two entries on sick report during the year for each man.) Of the whole number taken on sick report 54,710, or 1863 per 1000 of strength for disease alone, and 8797, or 300 per 1000 of strength were wounds, accidents, and injuries of all kinds.

"The average number constantly on sick report during the year was 1480, or 51 per 1000 of strength; of these 1190, or 41 per 1000 of strength were under treatment for disease, and 290 or 10 per 1000 of strength for wounds, accidents, and injuries.

"The total number of deaths reported was 519, or 17 per 1000 of mean strength. Of these 363, or 12 per 1000 of strength, died of disease, and 156, or 5 per 1000 of strength, of wounds, accidents, and injuries.

"The total mortality rate is greater than that for the previous year, the chief increase occurring in the proportion of deaths from disease. The proportion of deaths from all causes to cases treated was 1 death to 122 cases.

"1091 *white* soldiers are reported to have been discharged on 'Surgeon's Certificate of Disability,' being at the rate of 37 per 1000 of mean strength.

"The reports from the *colored* troops give the following figures, which do not include the white officers:—

"The total number of cases of all kinds reported was 3551, or 1362 per 1000 of strength. Of these 2964, or 1137 per 1000 of strength, were cases of disease, and 587, or 225 per 1000 of strength, were wounds, accidents, and injuries.