**A CASE OF GUNSHOT WOUND,
AND SUBSEQUENT
EXTRACTION OF A BULLET FROM THE
BLADDER.**

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COMMUNICATED, WITH NOTICES OF SIMILAR CASES, BY
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At the battle of Chillianwallah (January 13th, 1849), private West, of H. M. 24th Regiment, was shot in the left buttock, about the situation of the ischiatic notch, but he immediately felt such severe pain in the left testicle, as made him at first suppose that part to be the seat of injury.

Although the ball could not be found, the wound healed without any difficulty, and no blood was ever noticed either in the stools or urine. Shortly after the infliction of the wound, a discharge from the urethra made its appearance, accompanied with some pain in passing water. At first, little attention was paid to these symptoms, as they were supposed to be the remains of a gonorrhœa which the patient had suffered from four months previously.

As, however, the discharge did not yield to remedies, and much ropy mucus was secreted, the presence of a foreign body in the bladder was suspected, and a sound having been introduced, a hard substance was distinctly felt, and heard to ring against the instrument.

The lateral operation, as if for the removal of a calculus, was determined on, which I performed, on the 30th of August, 1849; a common dissecting scalpel being the only cutting instrument employed. An iron ball was extracted from the bladder, weighing one ounce and thirty-eight grains: it had become encrusted with a very thin layer of sandy deposit; so slight, indeed, as to be hardly appreciable. By the end of October the patient was convalescent.

Situation of wound.	Ball extracted by operation.	How long after wound.	Operator.	Result of operation.	Ball found after death.	How long after wound.	Report of case.
In hypogastrium.	Calculus surrounding it; size of a pigeon's egg.	Five years.	Pellotier.	Successful.	.	.	Covillard. Observations iatrochirurgiques, 2d edit., by Thomassin; 1791.
In hypogastrium.	.	Four or five years.	Frère Jacques.	.	.	.	Dionis. Cours d'Opérations, 1708, p. 170.
Upper and back part of thigh.	Calculus surrounding it.	Four or five months.	Ridoute.	.	.	.	Cheselden. Treatise on the High Operation, 1723, Plate 10.
In hypogastrium.	.	Several years.	Morand, sen.	.	.	.	Morand. ¹ Traité de la Taille au Haut Appareil, 1728, p. 224.
Over ilium.	Calculus surrounding it.	Ten years.	Maréchal.	.	.	.	Garengeot. Traité des Opérations, 2d edit., 1731, (not in 1st edit.)
At bottom of linea alba.	.	.	Duvergé.	Successful.	.	.	Percy. Manuel des Chirurgiens d'Armée, 1792, p. 246.
Through sacrum and rectum.	Calculus surrounding it; size of a small hen's egg.	Ten years.	Langenbeck.	.	.	.	Larrey. Clinique Chirurgicale, 1829-36, vol. ii, p. 529.
In right groin.	.	Four days.	Larrey.	Successful.	.	.	Larrey. Op. cit. vol. ii.
Over false ribs on right side.	Ball weighed 4 oz. 2 gros.; had earthy deposit on it.	Eight years.	Soubertelle.	Successful.	.	.	Larrey. Op. cit. vol. ii, p. 535; and Bull. de la Société Médicale d'Emulation, 1821, p. 450.
Over tenth rib on left side.	Ball lodged in cyst, at upper and fore part of bladder.	Six years.	Larrey.	Successful.	.	.	Larrey. Op. cit. vol. ii, p. 537.

Above the pubes. Ball coated with phosphates.	Three months.	Guthrie.	Successful.	.	.	.	Guthrie. Lectures on Wounds and Injuries of the Abdomen and Pelvis, 1847.
An inch above right sciatic notch.	Seven months.	Cline.	Successful.	.	.	.	Chelius's System of Surgery, Note by South, vol. i, p. 482.
.	Six or seven months.	Colles.	Successful.	.	.	.	2
Through sacrum.	Ball found at left side of prostate.	Cusack.	Successful.	.	.	.	3
Above pubes.	High operation.	Baudens.	Successful.	.	.	.	Baudens. Clinique des Plaies d'Armes à feu, 1836, p. 384.
At right side of coccyx, with fracture of that bone.	.	.	Extraction tried unsuccessfully; patient died in consequence.	Calculus surrounding it; size of hen's egg.	Thirty years.	Fabricius Hildanus. Opera Omnia, Francof. 1646, Obs. 67, p. 250. (Case communicated by Paulus Offredus.)	
.	.	.	Same result as above.	Calculus surrounding it; size of egg.	.	J. N. Binnigerus. Obs. et Curat. Medicinal., Cent. v; Montbelgardi, 1673, p. 401.	
.	.	.	Same result as above.	Calculus surrounding it; size of egg.	Twenty years.	T. Bartholini Epistolæ Medicinalium Cent. iii; Hagæ Com., 1740, epist. 35. G. Segerus to Bartholinus.	

¹ Apparently the same case alluded to by Morand in his 'Hist. de l'Académie des Sciences,' An. 1725, p. 22; and in his 'Opusculæ de Chirurgie,' 2de partie, 1772, p. 248.

² The patient was the "staff-surgeon" mentioned by Bellingall in his 'Outlines of Military Surgery,' 1838, p. 310. It is probably this operation which is attributed to Crampton by Guthrie. (Op. cit.)

³ This is the case alluded to by Bellingall as previously operated on, without success, by another surgeon. (Op. cit., pp. 310-11.)

[The blanks in the above Table denote that particulars have not been stated by the authors.]

NOTE BY MR. DIXON.

[Several instances of bullets having been found within the cavity of the bladder are recorded, but I need hardly add that they are among the rarities of surgery. I can find the particulars of only fifteen operations for the extraction of balls which had either primarily entered the bladder, or, having lodged in the immediate neighbourhood, had afterwards made their way into its cavity by abscess and ulceration. Such cases are related by Covillard, Dionis, Cheselden, Morand, Garengéot, Percy, Larrey, South, Guthrie, and Baudens; and I owe to the kindness of Mr. Cusack a notice of an operation performed by him, and of another by the late Mr. Colles, neither of which has been published.

Extraction was either not attempted, or was unsuccessfully tried, in the cases reported by Fabricius Hildanus, Binninger, and Seger: the bullets, forming nuclei of stones, having been found in the bladder after death. In the case mentioned by Elsholz,¹ the bullet was small enough to be voided by the urethra.

As these histories are scattered among a variety of works, some of which are rare, I have arranged in a tabular form the chief points of interest they present.—J. D.]

¹ *Ephemerides Naturæ Curiosorum*, &c., Ann. ix, x, Obs. 85; copied by Bonnet into his *Medicina Septentrionalis*, vol. i, p. 831.