SUCCESSFUL CASE
OF
LITHOTOMY.

By CHARLES MAYO, Esq.

OF WINCHESTER.

PRESENTED THROUGH
MR. ABERNETHY.

Read March 28th, 1820.

CHARLES GILBERT, aged 28, was admitted into the hospital under my care on the 25th of November, 1818, with stone in the bladder. He had been sounded more than twenty years before, and a stone having been then discovered, there was every reason to suppose that a calculus of very considerable magnitude must by this time have been formed. His sufferings were at intervals extremely acute, and such as kept him in a very emaciated and debilitated state. He had hitherto been dissuaded from undergoing the operation by the timidity of his friends, but finding every other resource hopeless, they had now consented to it, and as his mind was made up for the operation, he was

anxious that an early day should be fixed for it. On sounding him, the stone appeared to be of great solidity, and the bladder very capacious, propelling a large quantity of pale urine with great force.

On Thursday, December the 3rd, I performed the operation of lithotomy, with a common scalpel, as is my constant practice, after the manner of Cheselden, and I made a large and deep external incision, and then cutting into the side of the prostate gland, as far back as I could reach, I brought the knife out along the groove of the staff into the membranous part of the urethra. I then readily passed my finger into the bladder and touched the stone; but finding it to be very large I took a probe-pointed bistoury, and dilated the wound in the neck of the bladder. I then introduced the forceps, but found that when dilated to the greatest extent, they were hardly capacious enough to grasp the stone, in consequence of which it repeatedly escaped from my hold. At length, after many very forcible attempts in which I was assisted by one of my colleagues, Mr. Wickham, I brought the stone to the verge of the lower opening of the pelvis, and held it there securely by the forceps when Mr. W. passed a strong iron scoop under the arch of the pubes, which acted as a lever to prevent the stone from slipping out of the forceps, and assisted in its extraction. By the combined action of these instru-

ments, applied with all the force we could exert, the stone fortunately broke into several large fragments, which I then readily extracted. A considerable hæmorrhage followed the first incision, but it was very trifling after the urine began to flow from the opening into the bladder, which it did, in large quantities. The stone was in its texture very compact, but when broke, a sort of nucleus of rather a lighter colour and about the size of an apricot stone, fell out as from its centre. The whole when united and accurately replaced, which was easily done by means of a little glue, weighed fourteen ounces and two drachms avoirdupoise weight; it measures eight inches and a half in its smallest circumference, and rather more than ten in its largest*.

I accomplished the first steps of the operation, as far as led to the opening into the bladder, without any difficulty, but the extraction of the stone occupied more than half an hour; the wound in the bladder was dilated by means of the bistoury to such an extent, that I believe the stone, large as it was, came out without any laceration, it was several times brought completely into the perineum, and was only obstructed in its exit by the rami of the ischia and pubes.

My patient of course was extremely exhausted,

* See Plate I. fig. 1.

and nothing but the frequent application of stimuli in every shape, both externally and internally, prevented him from sinking. Soon after the operation, the pulse, from being imperceptible, gradually rose to near a hundred, soft and weak. In the evening, it was fuller and 120. He passed a good night, and the urine flowed copiously from the wound. Dec. 4th. Twelve leeches were applied to the hypogastrium which, with warm fomentations, removed a considerable degree of pain and tenderness in that part; he had had a good motion last night and another to-day. In the evening the pulse rose to 140, and the tongue was dry, but he suffered no pain and was in good spirits. Dec. 5th. He had passed a good night, in the course of which he had two or three relaxed stools. Pulse 120; tongue moist. The tenderness still continuing in the hypogastrium, six more leeches were applied, which bled largely and seemed to make him very faint. He ate chicken broth, arrow-root, panada, &c. In the evening he was more revived; had had more stools; pulse quicker; tongue dry; ordered small doses of laudanum with spt. ammon. arom. Dec. 6th. Had slept well, but the bowels being still relaxed, he took the pulv. cret. c. c. op. with wine, strong broth, arrow-root, &c.

He remained in the hospital till the 24th of March, 1819, when the wound had contracted to the size of a crow-quill, and he passed water freely.

by the urethra. So far as relates to the healing process, nothing could have gone on more favourably; for although of great extent, the wound gave no more trouble than an ordinary case. His appetite was good, and he slept well, but his general health had been so much impaired by long continued suffering previous to the operation, and he was so much reduced by a general tendency to diarrhoea, that I thought it better for him to go home, hoping that a change of air might have a salutary effect upon him. For the first week or two after his removal, he walked about and seemed to gain strength; the diarrhoea however again returned and the urine became very turbid and offensive. He now found a great degree of tenderness in the left buttock and in the wound, and at length a small abscess formed and burst into the wound by an opening which assumed the appearance of that which occurs in fistula in ano. This occurrence broke up, as it were, the wound afresh, and the spongy granulations arising from the abscess impeded the process of cicatrization. The application of a solution of sulphate of zinc, and the occasional use of the lunar caustic, has however reduced this unhealthy action, and the wound is again getting quiet, and contracting.

June 1st. For a few days past he has had a very painful swelling in the right axilla, which has happily been dispersed by leeches, &c. The wound

gives no trouble except from excoriation by the dribbling of the urine ; he wears an elastic catheter occasionally. The diarrhoea and sickness return at intervals. July 30th. His general health does not amend, and unfortunately the house in which he lives is very confined, consequently the heat of the season has been very unpropitious to the re-establishment of his strength. The wound remains quiet and disposed to contract, and I have no doubt would heal completely were it not for the deficiency of tone in the system. The friends are averse to sending him into the country on account of the inconvenience arising from the frequent necessity for changing his linen, and from a false delicacy on exposing his infirmities to strangers. He has had no pain in the loins nor any symptom of disease in the kidneys, but occasionally the urine has been loaded with a purulent and ropy matter, and sometimes small portions of coagulated blood have been discharged. The pulse has been uniformly quick and weak, from 100 to 120, and was observed to be so before the operation. Since the removal of the stone, which is now more than nine months ago, he has enjoyed an entire freedom from pain; and notwithstanding the many drawbacks which his enfeebled constitution has sustained, I have every reason to believe that his recovery will be ultimately complete.

Sept. 20th. The wound will hardly admit the

60 MR. MAYO'S SUCCESSFUL CASE OF LITHOTOMY.

passage of a probe, but his dyspeptic symptoms and occasional diarrhoea still harass him, and he has lately had a good deal of pain, with a throbbing sensation in the loins; he has also now and then a painful attack of dyspnoea.

Fig. 2.