CASE
OF A
DOUBLE ENCYSTED TUMOUR,

THE POSTERIOR CYST OF WHICH, SITUATED
DEEPLY BETWEEN THE EYE-BALL, AND THE FLOOR OF
THE ORBIT, WAS ATTACHED TO, AND PARTLY
CONTAINED, A TOOTH;

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IN November, 1812, Thomas Heard, a healthy-looking young man of 17, was admitted an in-patient of the infirmary for the cure of diseases of the eye, in this city, on account of a tumour which completely obstructed the sight of his left eye.

The tumour was situated beneath the eye, occupying a very considerable portion of the orbit; the eye in consequence being pushed into the upper part of that cavity, so as to be almost wholly hidden behind the upper lid. On tracing it backwards, it appeared to extend to a very considerable depth;

and it projected so much in front, as to constitute a very striking deformity. The anterior part of the tumour was rounded in form. A superficial groove running obliquely across its upper surface, formed a slight line of division between the more prominent and moveable part of the swelling and that more immediately under the eyeball. The ciliary edge of the lower tarsus, with a few scattered hairs in it, crossed the front of the tumour rather above its middle ; the conjunctiva, drawn forwards from the eyeball, greatly stretched, but not apparently much altered in structure, investing it above ; and a thin skin of a deep red, loaded with purple vessels, covering it below ; but neither of them closely adherent to it. The portion of the tumour in front was soft, and could be moulded into different shapes by the fingers : the posterior division felt more elastic.

By an effort, he could raise the upper lid a little, but not high enough to discover even the lower edge of the cornea. By lifting it with the finger, a portion of the pupil might be exposed, and he then could distinguish objects partially. The eye was apparently perfect, but he had scarcely any power of moving it to different points.

The swelling was first observed in early infancy, and was at that time not much larger than a pea. It increased but slowly, until about four or five years since, when it began evidently to enlarge, and

for some time it grew rapidly. Latterly it had not advanced much.

It caused no pain, but as it was a great deformity, was still enlarging, and the eye sound, though rendered useless by its presence, it was thought advisable to remove it.

In the operation, a division was made of the inferior oblique muscle of the eye, which appeared stretched across the front of the tumour, having been pushed before it in its progress from the deeper parts of the orbit. The sac adhered firmly to the outer angle, and part of the lower edge of the orbit: in most other points it was but loosely connected with the surrounding parts. It was found to extend almost to the bottom of the orbit, and to occupy more of it than the eye did itself: and it not being possible to proceed in the dissection far within that cavity, without greatly endangering the eye, on account of the very narrow space between it and the posterior division of the swelling, the contents of the latter were partially evacuated to obtain room; and the sac cautiously separated from its deeper attachments. Towards the posterior point, on the inner side, and more than an inch from the edge of the orbit, the sac felt as if it embraced a sharp bony process, arising from about the line of junction between the ethmoid and superior maxillary bones. Unwilling to proceed at hazard, the sac was cut off close up to this pro-

jection, that its nature and connections might be examined before an attempt was made to remove it. It appeared to be formed of bone, terminating in a sharp point, and projecting nearly in a perpendicular direction into the cavity of the orbit. It was slightly moveable, as if attached to the periosteum only; and was removed without much difficulty, together with the remains of the sac which adhered to it.

On examination, it was found to be in structure a tooth; and much resembling in form and size, the supernumerary teeth sometimes found in the palate. The part which projected into the sac was conical, and covered by smooth, shining, white enamel: the sac firmly adherent round a contracted portion at the base of the cone, resembling the neck of a tooth; and without the sac, the appearance of a root, truncated obliquely, with a passage in the centre, evidently containing blood-vessels. It was by this part that it was connected with the floor of the orbit.

The tumour was found to be made up of two cysts, separable at the groove before mentioned, to some depth all round, by dissection, but united indissolubly in the centre. That in front allowed the colour of its contents to be distinguished through it. The posterior sac was thicker and more vascular. The interior surface of that in front was rough, with here and there a chalky matter ad-

hering to it. It contained a compact lardaceous yellow substance. The inner surface of the posterior sac was smooth, excepting a part near the tooth, where it had much the appearance of coarse skin with many pores in it. The contents were partly a whey-coloured fluid, and partly a yellow curdy substance*.

The eye did not in the least drop on the removal of the tumour; and the large cavity which had been produced by it, was filled with some pieces of soft sponge, dipped in oil. On removing the last piece of sponge, on the seventh day after the operation, the cavity was found to be every where covered by healthy granulations. The opening contracted rapidly, and the eye sunk fast, so that within a fortnight it became nearly on a level with the other.

He was discharged in the beginning of January, with the wound perfectly healed. The lower lid did not, at that time, cover so much of the eyeball as it does naturally; and in one spot the ciliary edge was a little inverted. He had the

* The cyst and the point of its attachment are represented in fig. 1 & 2. of plate 1.

Fig. 1. The tumor of its natural size; the posterior cyst brought forward to shew the situation of the tooth. A. The posterior cyst. B. The anterior cyst. C. The tooth.

Fig. 2. The orbit. A. The point near which the tooth was attached.

power of moving it slightly, but he could not raise it high enough to bring it into accurate apposition with the upper. The lacrymal ducts of both lids were pervious to fluids, which passed freely into the nose by means of a syringe. There was a considerable hollow above the eyeball; and the eye was not quite in a line with the other, but rather above it. He could not move it at all downwards, or freely in any direction. With the exception of this inconvenience, he enjoyed in it perfect vision.

He had a complete natural set of teeth, though many of them were disposed irregularly.