SOME PARTICULARS OF A CASE
OF
POPLITEAL ANEURISM,
CURED BY FLEXION OF THE KNEE.

BY THE LATE
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MY late much esteemed and lamented friend, Mr. H. C. Johnson, communicated to me more than a year since some details of a case of popliteal aneurism in which he had effected a cure by the flexion of the knee carried on in the manner which proved successful in the first case which I had the honour to communicate to this Society. The circumstances under which the cure was effected were somewhat peculiar, and Mr. Johnson had the intention of bringing forward a statement of the case. That intention having been unhappily frustrated, and as he had already authorised me to make use of the case, I thought it might be desirable briefly to record it as a pendent to that of Mr. Durham to-night.

The patient was an adult male, admitted into St. George's Hospital, under the care of Mr. H. C. Johnson, with a popliteal aneurism of moderate size, and of a few months' duration. Mr. Johnson employed pressure with tourniquets for nearly three months, but ineffectually, and was afterwards on the point of proceeding to ligature the femoral artery when flexion of the knee was suggested by the perusal of my case. He bandaged the leg to the thigh, including the whole foot beneath the bandage (as it is best, I think, to do), and the result was consolidation in six days. The cure was permanent. The previous failure of compression makes the case very interesting, and recalls that¹ in which Mr. Spence, of Edinburgh, found flexion successful in curing a relapsing popliteal aneurism which had recurred after ligature of the femoral at Scarpa's triangle, where the two unpromising alternatives were ligature of the iliac under peculiarly unfavorable conditions, or the old operation by cutting into the sac and tying the artery immediately above and below it, of which the mortality in this region has been very great.

The cases to-night recorded raise to twelve the number of cures of popliteal aneurism by the flexion method effected by British surgeons since September, 1858, the date of my first case originally brought before this Society.

Postscript, July, 1864.—Since the reading of this paper, a successful application of this method has been made by Mr. J. Hutchinson at the London Hospital.

¹ 'Edin. Med. Journal,' Nov., 1859, p. 434.