time of diminished discharge, before consolidation of fracture. Crutches on the fifth to fifteenth day, with suitable plaster-of-Paris bandage.

6. Compound fractures of the thigh: According to the degree of bone-splitting and of suppuration, crutches on the third to seventh week, with plaster-of-Paris.

7. Wounds of the foot, even of the sole, do not contraindicate the use of crutches during the period of granulation.

The early use of the physiological functions of muscles and bones after injuries and gunshot wounds reduces to a considerable extent the number of patients requiring physio-therapeutic after-treatment.

PSEUDOTUBERCULOMA SILICOTICUM.

BY

C. R. NITCH, F.R.C.S.,

ASSISTANT SURGEON, ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

THE following case is an example of a rare lesion resulting from the traumatic insertion of silica into the lip:

A man, aged 39, seen by me on May 18th, 1916, gave the following history:

In 1906 he fell off his bicycle when riding along a dusty country road, cutting his nose and the mucous membrane on

FIG. 1.—A group of multinucleated giant cells distributed in a circumscribed aggregate of proliferated connective tissue cells, the whole being surrounded with a narrow zone of fibrous tissue, as in a miliary tubercle. The whole of the new formation was constructed after a similar manner. Many of the giant cells enclose particles of silica. $\frac{2}{3}$ in. objective.

the buccal aspect of his lower lip. He thought that in all probability some road grit was ground into the wound, for he distinctly remembers spitting out blood and sand after he picked himself up. He used a mouth wash, and healing took place in about fourteen days. The resulting scar was somewhat thickened, but underwent no further change until five months ago, when a swelling began to form in its centre. Four months later the submental glands became enlarged and tender. The glandular enlargement, combined with the deformity of the lip produced by the increasing size of the tumour, led the patient to consult his doctor, who brought him to see me.

He was a tall, well-built man, with a somewhat prominent lower lip. He stated that he had always been perfectly healthy and that there was no history of phthisis or specific disease. Von Pirquet's cutaneous reaction was negative. On the inner side of the lower lip, slightly to the left of the mid-line and just above the frenum, there was a hard rounded tumour, a little larger than a shilling (about 2.3 cm.) in circumference and about 1 cm. in thickness. The mucous membrane was firmly adherent to the whole of its buccal surface, and it appeared to be invading the muscles of the lip. The skin was freely movable over the tumour. The submental glands were slightly enlarged and tender, but freely movable. The scar in the nose was small, soft, and hardly visible. Palpation of the tumour through the skin conveyed an impression similar to that given by a preputial chancre. A provisional diagnosis of an endothelioma or of a fibroma surrounding a foreign body was made.

On May 20th the tumour, together with the mucous membrane covering it and a quarter of an inch of the surrounding tissues, was excised from the buccal aspect of the lip, and the submental glands were removed. Healing was uneventful, and up to the present date there has been no sign of recurrence.

Pathological Report.

The tumour was tough and somewhat granular on section. It was sent to Professor S. G. Shattock for examination, and I have to thank him for the diagnosis of a very unusual condition, the nature of which is indicated by the name which he has given it.

Microscopic examination showed that the lesion consisted of a congeries or a mosaic of giant-celled systems and huge giant cells, hardly to be distinguished from those of tuberculosis, although no caseation was present. No tubercle bacilli or other bacteria were discoverable in the lesion in microscopic sections.

FIG. 2.—Giant cells with an included particle of silica. $\frac{1}{6}$ in. objective.

In practically all the giant cells, however, and elsewhere, there were particles of silica, which stood brilliantly out when the sections were polarized. That the material consisted chemically of silica was proved by its insolubility in boiling nitric acid. The figures appended will, perhaps, convey at a glance the details of the structure of this singular formation.

WHEN the *Letimbro* was torpedoed Major Giulio Fantoli, of the Medical Service of the Italian army, who was on board, got away in one of the boats. For a long time nothing was heard of him. Recently General Ameglio, commander-in-chief of the Tripolitan army, discovered that the boat had fallen into the hands of Arab pirates and been taken to Misorata where Dr. Fantoli is still a prisoner. The adventure recalls the old days of the Algerian raiders of the sea whose most famous victim was Cervantes.