NOTES OF THREE CASES OF CHRONIC ACQUIRED TALIPES SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY OPERATION.¹

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CASE I. *Talipes Equinus of Right Foot, acquired Twelve Years before Operation.*—F., aged 18, dressmaker. In good health. About twelve years ago suffered from paralysis of the extensor muscles of the right leg, which caused talipes equinus. She has been quite lame since the paralysis, and walks with difficulty, bearing the weight of the right limb on the toes. There is wasting of the leg and shortening of the foot.

On May 1st, 1891, methylene was administered; Esmarch's bandage was applied to the limb, and the plantar fascia and all the tendons and bands which shortened the sole of the foot were cut subcutaneously, entering the tenotome from the inner border of the foot. The foot was forcibly straightened, and the small superficial wound dressed with tr. benz. co. on lint. Esmarch's bandage was removed and there was no hæmorrhage.

May 4th.—Wound healed; and foot again forcibly straightened with Mr. H. O. Thomas's wrench.² This forcible straightening of the foot was repeated each day for four days.

Fig. 1, Case I.—F., aged 18 years. Right talipes equinus, ailing twelve years.

On May 8th methylene was administered, Esmarch's bandage applied to the limb, and the tendo Achillis was cut subcutaneously. The foot was forcibly bent to a right-angle with the leg, and the wound dressed with tr. benz. co. On May 11th the wound was healed. The foot and leg were massaged and shampooed and the foot forcibly bent with Thomas's wrench, and Scarpa's shoe applied to keep the foot bent at a right angle. This treatment was repeated each day for three weeks, when a boot and steels were applied to the foot and leg. The steel rods were attached one at each side of the limb and inserted by the bent lower end into a slot in the heel of the boot; the upper end of each was rivetted to an iron band, which passed two-thirds round the leg just below the knee, each band being firmly secured to the boot and limb by a strap and buckle at the upper and lower ends, as is shown in Fig. 3. She was then able to walk without

assistance. Each morning and evening the foot and leg were shampooed and massaged. On June 17th she was able to walk well. The foot was lengthened and the leg was increased in thickness, and she could place her heel firmly on the ground in walking. She left that day for home.

CASE II. *Talipes Equinus of Right Foot Acquired Twenty-three Years before Operation.*—B., aged 35, a dressmaker, at 12 years of age, paralysis of the extensor muscles of the right leg suddenly occurred, and remained, producing talipes equinus of the right foot. For seven years she had been quite lame and unable to walk out. The heel was raised 3 inches from the ground, and the leg was much wasted.

On March 25th, 1880, I cut the tendo Achillis subcutaneously after freezing the parts with ether spray, then forcibly bent the foot to a right angle with the leg, and dressed the wound with tr. benz. co.

On March 28th the wound was healed, the limb was shampooed and massaged, and a Scarpa's shoe was applied to keep the foot in proper position. Each day for two weeks Scarpa's shoe was removed, the foot and leg thoroughly massaged, and the shoe reapplied. On the fourth week after the tendo Achillis was cut, a boot and steels were applied to the foot and leg as described in Case I. She then could walk without any help. She continued to attend to all her business and household duties for four years, when I last heard from her.

CASE III. *Double Talipes Equino-Varus, acquired Twenty*

Fig. 2, Case I.—Right foot and ankle five weeks after operation for talipes equinus.

Years before Operation.—H. R., aged 27, a farmer, had suffered for twenty years from double talipes equino-varus, arising from general debility. He was quite lame. His legs were wasted, and his face had an anxious careworn expression. His left heel was raised 3 inches from the ground and his right heel $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

On May 8th, 1891, methylene was administered, Esmarch's bandage was applied to the limb, and the plantar fascia and all the tendons and bands which shortened the sole of each foot cut subcutaneously; each foot was forcibly straightened, and the wounds dressed with tr. benz. co. On May 11th the wounds had healed, and each foot was forcibly straightened by Thomas's wrench, and Scarpa's shoe applied to each foot. This treatment was repeated for five days.

On May 15th methylene was again administered, and the limbs were rendered bloodless by Esmarch's bandage. The tibialis posticus, extensor longus digitorum, and tendo Achillis were cut subcutaneously on the left side, and on the right the tibialis anticus posticus and tendo Achillis were also cut. Each foot was forcibly bent to a right angle with

¹ Read at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association, held at Nottingham, 1892.

² This wrench is described by the late Mr. H. O. Thomas, Liverpool, in his book on *Fractures and Dislocations*, Lewis, London, 1890, p. 27.

the leg, and the wounds dressed with tr. benz. co. On May 18th, the wounds being healed, each foot was brought again to a right angle with the leg with Thomas's wrench. Each foot and leg was massaged daily and Scarpa's shoe applied for twelve days. Then boots and steels were applied to the feet and legs (one steel on the inner side of the leg was applied in this case) as shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 3, Case 1.—Talipes equinus, right. Operated on May 1st, 1891. Steel and boot applied June 5th, 1891.

By wearing the boots and steels the patient, in a few days, could walk well without help. He left for home to-day, with the instruction to massage his legs daily. He has walked daily with ease and comfort since then.³

Fig. 4, Case 3.—H. R., aged 27 years. Double talipes equino-varus; ailing 20 years.

This case, and casts of the limb of Cases I and II, taken before and four weeks after operation, were shown at the meeting.

The operations in the cases here described were conducted on the simplest principles. (1) The limbs were rendered bloodless by applying Esmarch's bandage. (2) Methylene was used as an anæsthetic in two cases, and in the third case ether spray was applied locally. I consider methylene is the best anæsthetic in these short operations. (3) The contracted plantar fascia and tendons on the sole of the foot were cut subcutaneously, one week before the tendo Achillis, because the toes and anterior part of the foot can be more thoroughly straightened by the "wrench," while the heel is held firmly by the tendo Achillis. (4) Each foot was thoroughly massaged and forcibly straightened and put in proper position daily (after the skin wound had healed) for three weeks, and in one of the patients for four weeks after the operation. Thomas's wrench I found a most useful instrument for forcibly stretching the foot after operation. (5) The patients were recommended to walk as much as possible every day, and continue the massage for at least two years after operation.⁴

Fig. 5, Case 3.—H. R., aged 27 years. Double talipes equino-varus, four weeks after operation.

CANCER OF THE BREAST.

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THE case which forms the basis of this communication is that of an unmarried patient (aged 57), under the care of Dr. J. R. Philpots. The patient had complained of severe pain in her left breast during the autumn of 1892; and upon examination, on November 19th, both breasts were found of an unusually large size, with a certain amount of irregular induration. In parts of either breast there was toughness, as though small pieces of whipcord had been inserted; but these signs were more marked in the left than in the right breast, and the left nipple was not so prominent as the right one. Dr. Philpots proposed that a portion of the left breast should be excised and submitted to microscopic examination. Chloroform having been administered, two portions of indurated mammary tissue, the size of nuts, were removed from the central and deeper part of the left organ.

Microscopic sections of the specimens have since been furnished to me by Mr. Stanley Boyd and Mr. E. H. Fricke, of Charing Cross Hospital. I am also indebted to Mr. Francis Fowke for his kindness in procuring an excellent photograph

⁴ My sincere thanks are due to Mr. Adam Sloan, instrument maker, Belfast, for the careful manner in which he made the boots and steels for these patients.