CASES IN SURGERY.

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COMPOUND FRACTURE OF THE OS FRONTIS—EXFOLIATION OF THE RIGHT RADIAL, SCAPHOID, AND PISIFORM BONES—SIMPLE FRACTURE OF THE LEFT RADIUS, AND DISLOCATION OF BOTH WRIST JOINTS.

Matthew Hammond, aged 12, a pauper, Haddenham. May 12th, 1841, went out bird-nesting with other boys, at a barn upon Granby Fen, where he was precipitated to the ground from a height of nearly 20 feet. When he had reached home, I was quickly in attendance; there was inflicted a deep lacerated wound over the left eyebrow, and compound fracture of the frontal bone, comminuted fractures near the inferior extremities of both radial bones, and dislocation of both wrist joints, besides his system being very much shaken. General coldness of skin; small feeble pulse; much stupor and drowsiness.

Evening. Skin heated; coma; pupils of both eyes slightly dilated, and unaffected by the action of light. He had micturated largely of blood, and was much distressed by pain when pressure was applied over the region of the left kidney. Diluted sulphuric acid, two drachms; sulphate of magnesia, four drachms; water, eight ounces. Take one ounce every four hours.

13th. Passed a very restless night, though this morning he is very drowsy; white, furred tongue, and increased temperature of skin; renal secretions have the same unnatural appearance. Apartment darkened; low diet; head shaved; cold applications constantly applied.

14th. Head symptoms much the same; urine not so floridly coloured; it still has a very dark appearance; bowels have been well regulated. A few ounces of blood were taken from the external jugular vein. Diluted sulphuric acid omitted, and in its stead—

Tincture of digitalis . . .	60 minims.
Tartarized antimony . . .	2 grains.
Nitrate of potash . . .	4 scruples.

To be taken as before.

15th. Restless night; violent in his conduct; with difficulty could be kept in bed. In the morning somewhat feverish, and urine nearly natural.

16th. Had a good night's rest; free from pain of head; less fever. Afternoon:—Had a violent attack of delirium of short continuance. Evening:—Both arms undone; upon the back of the right hand there was a small vesicle, and the whole of this member was swollen. Bled to fourteen ounces; the fractures were lightly adjusted, and freely irrigated by a lotion of equal parts of solution of acetate of ammonia and water.

17th. Vesications have increased; skin darkened, freely scarified in the lower part of the arm; restoration of mental faculties, and excretions natural.

18th. Vesications and discolourization of the skin still greater, notwithstanding, his general health is improving. The parts were very freely incised, and bled profusely.

19th. The appearances of mortification are arrested, and a free discharge of blood and pus issues from the wounds.

22nd. Discharges freely blood and matter; a small piece of bone was removed from the forehead; wound cicatrizing.

June 2nd. Discharge undiminished; superior part of broken bone protrudes through the skin near the wrist; much pain and swelling of hand. A deep incision was made into it; an abscess has formed in the right arm, which runs very freely; intellectual faculties are unimpaired.

I shall not particularize a further detail of symptoms, suffice it to say that there have been several exfoliations of bone, amongst which the scaphoid and pisiform bones of the wrist, and the whole portions of the radius. At its articulatory extremities it was denuded of cartilage. It required considerable enlargement of the wound for the exit of the superior extremity of the latter bone. These osseous fragments of accidental disease are now in my possession. The case of excision of the ulna reported by Mr. McEwen, in the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, for September 4th, must have been more formidable to the operator; notwithstanding there could be no comparison of the ulterior results of the two cases. The subject of Mr. McEwen's case is enabled to pronate and supinate the hand, and flex and extend the fingers; he enjoys free motion of the wrist, and has undertaken the arduous employment of rowing: the boy Hammond has no use of the hand and wrist; the hand has not increased by growth since the accident, and hangs as if suspended by integument, and he can only use the arm as a lever. He was dismissed, cured, October 27, 1841.

PARTIAL DISLOCATION FORWARDS OF THE OS HUMERI.

In the evening of March 18th, 1843, I was hastily summoned a few miles hence, to a gentleman of this place, who had been thrown out of his gig. He principally complained of his elbow and wrist. A careful examination of the whole extremity was made, and it was found that the shoulder was partially dislocated forwards. There was a hollow beneath the acromion from vacuity of the glenoid cavity; the arm was somewhat separated from the side, though it was flexible, and could be moved in any direction. Attempts were made to reduce the head of the bone to its relative situation, by making a lever of the upper arm; putting the foot in the axilla, and extending from the wrist, but without success; then extension and counter-extension with towels, were employed, and after a short time the bone was heard to return to its cavity with a loud snap. He immediately expressed himself relieved, notwithstanding his hand and wrist were paralysed having lost their power of motion.

After some time, when there was no chance of inflammatory action of the joint, blisters, electricity, galvanism, and other stimulating applications were recommended, but not persevered in. Various medical men were consulted, and among others a bone-setter, who happened to be in the neighbourhood. This charlatan at first told him the arm was out, and that he must go to his house, a distance of thirty miles. He repaired thither, but seeing that he had no use in his hand and wrist, and that the other parts of the limb were flexed, he changed his tone, by telling him that the joint had dropped. Had there been stiffness only of the shoulder joint, the credulity of this patient would

no doubt have been readily worked upon, as he is very much wanting in moral courage, as shown by his not submitting to those energetic remedial agents recommended when the affection was in its early stage.

September 8th, 1844. I witnessed the progress of this case. The upper and lower arms have regained their lost power; the wrist and hand are puckered and withered; there is partial motion of the thumb and fore-fingers; very little of the ring and little finger.

I have observed a similar result in two cases before this period, from the same kind of dislocation, but not having had an opportunity of watching their progress, I forbear giving a report of them.

WOUND OF THE AXILLARY ARTERY AND AXILLARY PLEXUS OF NERVES, &c.

Mary Walker, aged 10, Coveney, Cambridgeshire, October 2nd, 1843, was employed at a thrashing machine; her clothes became entangled with the spindle, and she was drawn round several times. The left humerus and clavicle had both received comminuted fractures; there was a large deep wound extending across the axilla to the acromion process, dividing much muscular substance, nervous structure, and apparently the axillary artery, as no pulsation could be felt in the course of the vessels down the arm, and there was also a transverse wound of the integuments and cellular tissue, about the middle of the arm. The jagged and contused portions of muscular substance were removed; the wounds retained in apposition by sutures, and adhesive plaster; the fractures of the upper arm by splints, and a bandage, occasionally wetted with a lotion of one pint of vinegar to three of water. The fractures of the clavicle were nicely adapted by lying perfectly flat in bed. She did not appear to have suffered further injuries.

7th. Below the site of the lower wound there is a large dark vesicle. Ordered to be covered by cotton wool.

8th. Wounds united by adhesion. There has been very little constitutional disturbance; anorexia is the only symptom.

Sulphate of quinine . . .	6 grains.
Diluted sulphuric acid . .	15 minims.
Water	6 ounces.

Two tablespoonfuls to be taken twice a day.

18th. Sutures, bandages, and splints removed; wounds and fractures going on satisfactorily; a slough is formed where the vesicle was. This was circumscribed by a line of lunar caustic, and covered by cotton wool.

After the expiration of six weeks, bony union was well established, and the primary wounds healed. The slough had separated, and left a healthy healing surface, requiring only common applications, which the parents make use of.

September 8th, 1844. The artery is impervious throughout its course, from the axilla to the wrist. She retains the feeling, and partial mobility of the upper arm, being enabled to raise it as high as the shoulder; there is ankylosis of the elbow joint, and loss of sensation and motion of lower arm and hand; the upper arm is the same size as the other, the lower arm smaller, the hand withered, and drooping. My

object in relating this case has been to show that the parts which were the immediate seat of injury retain the power of sensation and motion; whereas, those more distantly situated, and which did not participate in the accident, are rendered useless.

CASE OF POISONING BY NUX-VOMICA.

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At two, p.m., June 20th, 1844, I was summoned to visit the daughter of Henry Duckworth, an unmarried person, residing with her parents in Derby-street. On my arrival I was informed that she had swallowed poison between the hours of twelve and one o'clock, being about one hour and a half previous to my visit. I found her upstairs and in bed. She was a very stout young woman, aged 26, and about five months pregnant of her third illegitimate child; her appearance was that of one suffering from tetanic convulsions; her face was livid; the lower extremities extended and widely separated; the muscles of the chest rigid, and very hard to the touch; her breathing short and quick; pulse low and fluttering; pupils dilated; consciousness undisturbed. On attempting to pass the tube of the stomach-pump, it produced, on coming in contact with the teeth, a most violent convulsion, and the tetanic state of the whole muscular system returned from merely tapping any part of the body with the finger. On the cessation of the fit, a piece of wood was introduced between the teeth, thus facilitating the passing of the tube of the stomach-pump into the stomach; when after throwing a quantity of tepid water into that viscus, I was enabled to abstract a large amount of fluid loaded with a grey powder, which was proved to be nux-vomica.

Previous to the use of the pump, the stomach had been freely acted upon by doses of sulphate of zinc, but such was the deadly influence of the poison, that she was seized about a quarter to three o'clock, just two hours and a half from the time of taking the poison, with one of the most awful convulsions it is possible to conceive. Her face was livid; teeth clenched; saliva flowing from the angles of the mouth; the eyelids widely separated; eyes protruded; the pupils fully dilated, so that the whole contour of the face assumed a most horrific aspect. I may add that the arms were violently agitated, the muscles of the chest hard and immovable; breathing suspended; the pulse not to be felt at the wrist; the legs were extended and widely separated, and no effort of mine could either approximate or bend them; there was slight opisthotonos; the fit lasted about two minutes; when the muscular system relaxed, and she was no more.

A *post-mortem* examination of the body was not allowed.

A quantity of the grey powder was collected, and submitted to the action of diluted sulphuric acid, then boiled for a short time, when the liquid assumed a yellowish appearance, which became on the addition of nitric acid, of a deep orange colour. Its taste was slightly acid, and intensely bitter.