IV.

REPORTS OF CASES IN PRIVATE PRACTICE.

External Application of Flour to recent Burns.

Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal,

By D. HUMPHREYS STORER, M.D.

WE noticed, a short time since, in a foreign Journal, the good effects of *flour* in cases of *burns*. Some may, perhaps, be induced to avail themselves of a remedy which they have always at hand, by perusing the following cases, in which its operation was directly beneficial.

CASE I.—On the 26th of November I was called upon at noon, to visit a child of Mrs. N.'s, in Essex St. This child, a fine girl, six months old, had been tied by its mother in a chair, while she went to a neighbor's, at a short distance. Returning in a few moments, she found the chair had fallen backwards, and the infant, unable to extricate itself, was lying with its head, upper part of back, and upper extremities, exposed to a large fire. The child was immediately snatched from the hearth, and while I was sent for, the individuals who were in the house covered the injured parts with the *cat-tail flag* (*Thypha latifolia*).—When I arrived, the application had disguised, in a great degree, the *extent* of the injury; but the incessant shrieks and strugglings, together with the appearance of those parts from which the reed had been removed, and the description of the covered parts by those who had seen them before its application, left me but little hopes of its recovery. I determined, however, to do what I could, as soon as possible. Accordingly, calling for a drudging-box, all the parts affected were sprinkled with a thick coat of flour. *Relief* was *immediate*; the crying was diminished; spasms became less frequent; and

for a few moments, *the breast was taken*. Restlessness, however, soon returning, a small quantity of camphorated tincture of opium was exhibited, which allayed uneasiness for a few moments only. At the expiration of an hour, another opiate was exhibited, with temporary benefit. Towards night I called again. My patient swallowed milk readily from the spoon. All the parts from which flour had been removed were covered again, which operation appeared grateful. At 9, P.M. the child was seen for the third time. It was sinking rapidly. Inflammation had extended over the whole left side of the face, closing the eye of that side, and the breathing had become irregular and deep. In about half an hour, she died.

When it is stated, that upon examination, the next morning, the whole surface of the cranium was found abraded, together with the back of the neck, and shoulders, as well as the greater part of *both* arms and hands, while some of the fingers were perfectly *black*, it will be acknowledged, we trust, that nothing in all human probability could have saved the child; and also, that the decided relief afforded by our remedy, although but *momentary* it might have been, justifies in concluding that in less aggravated cases, it may be of essential service, and is deserving of repeated trials before it is thrown aside as unworthy our confidence.

CASE II.—Since the above case came under our treatment, we have seen a son of Mr. Lemon's, in Pleasant Street, who had fallen forward upon a heated stove. The cuticle was removed from the greater part of the neck under the chin. Flour was applied as in the preceding case, with immediate relief. On the fourth day the part was perfectly healed over, and no inconvenience remained, except a *troublesome itching*, produced by the action of ex-

ternal agents upon the newly formed surface.

Boston, December 9th.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, DEC. 30, 1828.

THE LIVING SKELETON.

AN individual with this somewhat appalling, but not undeserved title, has lately been exhibiting himself for money in England, and in several cities on the Continent. From a pamphlet recently published at Falaise, in France, and embellished with a most grotesque figure of this "delicate monster," which we hope, for his sake, is a caricature, we extract the following particulars in regard to him.

Claude Ambrose Seurat was born at Troyes, in April, 1798. He began to emaciate at the age of three years, but it was not until twenty-four that he reached his present degree of tenuity. During this period he was free from disease. He is now five feet three inches in height, and weighs forty three pounds. His chest is so much sunk in, (so saith our venerable authority, l'ancien Maire de Falaise,) that it presents a depth of only three inches. His arms are two inches and a half in circumference; his thighs one inch in thickness. The position of the heart is peculiar, being three inches lower than natural. His pulse is feeble, and about fifty per minute. His diet is very light and simple, (that is, for a Frenchman,) consisting of jellies, broths, fowls, fish, &c. His daily allowance of food is about twelve ounces, and one glass of water supplies him for drink during the

same period. He sleeps well, and the corporeal functions are performed with regularity. His general appearance is not unlike that of a person recovering from protracted illness. He walks slowly, and with great caution, being extremely fearful of falling. His voice is strong, and susceptible of the usual modulations. His intellect and moral sense are not impaired.

This singular being has been visited by Sir Astley Cooper, by Baron Dubois, Baron Dupuytren and other distinguished anatomists, who have made a number of curious anatomical observations on his body. With Baron Dupuytren he is said to be quite a favorite.

Our subscribers are reminded that fifty cents will be saved to them if payment is made for the present volume within the year, ending the 19th of February next. See terms at the bottom of next page.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending Dec. 18, at noon.

Dec. 13.	John S. Allds,	37 yrs.
	Mary Morrosy,	34
	Mary Phebe Manuel,	71
14.	Hannah Smith,	58
	Eara Jones Whiton,	5
	Sarah Green,	87
	Elizabeth Marshall,	11 mo.
15.	Lucinda Richardson,	19 yrs.
	Hannah Trask,	58
	Mary Phillips,	40
16.	Parthenia Teary,	58
17.	Mary Hammond,	29
18.	Patrick Doyle,	42
	Zaccheus Harlow,	50
	Charlotte Lynch,	66
	Jonas Prouty,	49

Apoplexy, 1—cancer, 1—consumption, 3—dropsy in the head, 1—lung fever, 1—mortification, 2—old age, 1—unknown, 6. Males, 5—females, 11. Stillborn, 1. Total, 17.