

pressure, over the same region; pulse quick and sharp. Upon examination I found an exceedingly hard tumour, of about the size of a pigeon's egg, immediately below Poupert's ligament, on the left side, which, she informed me, had existed for upwards of four years, and first appeared upon stretching herself suddenly in bed, immediately after which she felt something give way, and a small lump made its appearance. It was always larger when she coughed, and she could return it at will, though within the last few months it had increased considerably in size, and she had not the same control over it. After several ineffectual attempts at reduction, by means of the taxis, I resolved upon operating, without further delay, and, with the assistance of two of my medical friends, I performed the operation at about nine o'clock on the same evening. Upon dissecting cautiously down to the sac, it was found firmly adherent to the adjacent parts. A director, after a little perseverance, was passed in below the hernia, and to its inner side, and Gimbernat's ligament being freely divided, the gut was easily returned into the abdomen, leaving the sac completely flaccid, in the wound. The wound being dressed with strips of adhesive plaster and a compress in the usual way, an immediate abatement of the sickness followed, and the bowels acted copiously in the course of an hour afterwards.

25th. Nine, A.M. She has passed an easy night; no return of sickness, and bowels again relieved; pulse 85, with some degree of fever, and occasionally a painful twinge at the umbilicus. I ordered her some diaphoretic medicine, with the addition of a little tincture of hyoscyamus, to be taken every three hours; and upon my visiting her again in the evening, I found that she had slept soundly for some hours during the day, and in every respect was going on well. I prescribed six drachms of castor oil to be taken early in the morning, and this had operated several times previous to my visit on the 26th, since which period she has continued to improve, and she is now entirely recovered.

COMPOUND LUXATION OF THE HUMERUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—I am induced to send the subjoined case for insertion in your excellent periodical by finding, from the best authors on the subject, that it is an accident of rare occurrence. Sir Astley Cooper, in his *Treatise on Dislocations and Fractures*, says, "The hip-joint is scarcely ever so dislocated; of

the shoulder I have known two instances &c." And Mr. Samuel Cooper, in his "Dictionary," mentions one case only of the shoulder having sustained this injury. I therefore, take it that the present communication, however imperfect in detail, may be interesting to some of your readers.

Charles Smith, ætat. 14, in the service of Mr. Bellamy, a farmer, in the adjoining parish, was, on the 20th of January, 1836, thrown from his master's horse, and, owing to the halter being wound round his forearm, drawn on the ground for the space of ten yards. Mr. Millard, with whom I was assistant, with myself, arrived, after a lapse of 40 minutes, and on examination we found the head of the os humerus lying exposed on the anterior part of the chest, over the pectoral muscle of that side. An immense quantity of blood had been lost through the wound in the axilla, and the integuments being greatly lacerated, amputation was thought necessary; but further advice being proposed, it was determined to wait for another opinion. Mr. Thompson, surgeon, of Ross, considered that the limb might be saved, and we immediately proceeded to its reduction, which was accomplished in the usual manner, and with great ease. Lint was placed in the axilla, to cover the wound; a roller was passed around the body, including the limb, and the fore-arm was suspended by a handkerchief, after which the patient was put to bed, and a composing draught was administered. It would be unnecessary to give the daily progress of the case; suffice it to say, that the antiphlogistic regimen being enforced, very little fever, or inflammation, followed. In a fortnight a small collection of pus took place, which was gradually absorbed. From this period no untoward symptom was manifested, the wound being cleaned, and simple dressing applied daily. In two months, by generous diet, he recovered strength sufficient to go out; and in less than three months walked every morning to our surgery, a distance of three miles, to have attention paid to his wound, which was then very small, and disappeared entirely in a fortnight. The fore-arm until that time had been supported by a splint and sling, which were now laid aside, as the elbow-joint was moved with difficulty; but passive motion, together with the use of stimulating liniments, soon restored to him its proper use.

He now, thirteen months from the time of the accident, possesses as useful a shoulder as at any period prior to the injury; its motion not being impeded, except so far as regards inability to raise his arm over his head. I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

P. TRELAWNY SCOTL.

Whitchurch Asylum, near Ross,
Feb. 27th, 1837.