

48. *Bérard's mode of applying the Vienna caustic for the cure of varicose veins.*—M. BÉRARD maintains that the peculiar mode in which he applies the caustic is of great importance in leading to success.

In the first place, the point he selects for applying the caustic is below the knee, over the course of the *vena saphena interna*. This will generally be found sufficient to remove any varicose veins that may exist in the thigh; and even though they should not be removed, experience proves that they will cause no further inconvenience if the operation succeeds in respect to the leg; while any dangerous accidents after the application are much more likely to occur when it is used above the knee than below it. The obliteration of the vein at this point is usually sufficient to cause the disappearance of the other varices in the leg, though it may sometimes prove necessary afterwards to apply the caustic to one or two other veins, should they continue enlarged. In the next place, instead of making several successive applications of the caustic upon the same point, he applies it in sufficient quantity, or for a sufficient space of time, to burn at once down to the coats of the vessel. This will be effected by allowing a thin layer of the substance, brought to the consistence of a paste by the acid of alcohol, to remain on from a quarter of an hour to half an hour. Lastly, he produces a long cicatrix, instead of a circular one, by applying the paste for some way downwards along the course of the vessel. M. Bérard states the advantages of the application used in the manner here prescribed to be, that it requires little or no suspension of the patient's ordinary occupations, that in general, one single operation will prove sufficient, that it is seldomer liable to be followed by serious accidents than the modes commonly in use, and that it hardly ever fails in effecting a permanent cure.—*Ibid.*

49. *Fracture of the neck of the Femur.*—MR. B. COOPER, in his recent course of lectures at the Royal College of Surgeons, attempted to show that fracture of the neck of the femur within the capsule never could occur; that, in fact, nature never intended that it should. He entered at considerable length into the arguments which had been adduced on both sides of this contested point, and denied that a case of osseous union of the neck of the thigh bone within the capsule, had ever occurred.—*Lancet*, March 19, 1842.

50. *Dislocation of the Sternum.*—M. MAISSONEUVE presented to the Academy of Medicine of Paris, at their meeting of the 28th of March last, two preparations taken from patients who had luxation of the first portion of the sternum on the second—a very rare accident.

The first preparation was from a man *ætat.* 32, who fell from a height of 40 feet on his neck. He survived six weeks.

The second was from a man *ætat.* 42, who fell from a height on his pelvis and was instantly killed. The lesion of the sternum was the same in both cases: the second portion was forced anterior of the upper, the periosteum in front was not lacerated.

51. *Wounds of the Femoral vein in operations for Aneurism.* By MR. HADWEN.—This is one of the most melancholy accidents which can happen, in the operations on this artery; and it may occur in the hands of the most skilful operator, as well as in those of the unskilful. There is scarcely an instance on record of the patient's recovery in cases where the vein has been wounded. MR. H. thinks that the fatal results are not owing to the wound of the vein, but to the ligature which is applied to the artery, including a part of the vein. He has seen the internal jugular wounded in an operation on the neck, where, although the hemorrhage was great, yet it ceased immediately when the operation was finished, and the parts had regained their natural relations. He takes for granted that simple wounds of veins, as a general rule, both superficial and deep, properly treated, are unattended by danger. It is quite unjustifiable, he thinks, to tie the artery at the place where the vein has been injured; and the practice that he would adopt in such a case is, to open the sheath of the vessels an inch