EXSECTION OF THE SUPERIOR MAXILLARY BONE—PLASTIC DENTISTRY.

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A VERY interesting case in surgery and dentistry has recently come under the notice of both professions in this city. About the middle of last month a patient came to Dr. J. M. Carnochan, suffering from disease of the upper jaw, resultant on the unskilful extraction of defective teeth about eight years ago in Australia. Since that time, the patient, having been out of the reach of the best practitioners, had passed through all the stages of ulceration, sloughing and caries, until at the period of his coming to Dr. Carnochan his masticatory power had been entirely, and his speech nearly destroyed. Dr. Carnochan proceeded to exsection of the upper maxillary, and found the parts so far gone that he was obliged to remove the entire structure from the articulation with the lower jaw (leaving the articulation perfect) upon the right side, to within a distance of three molars from that upon the left. The destruction of the soft parts had created an aperture through the floor of the antrum by which the forefinger could be passed into the fossæ, and the perpendicular plate of the ethmoid was plainly visible. The case was then handed over by Dr. Carnochan to Dr. George H. Perine, of 22d St., a dentist, well known as former editor of the *New York Dental Journal*, as a skilful manipulator, and the discoverer of several very ingenious methods and appliances in dentistry. Dr. Perine undertook the difficult task of restoring the jaw, beginning by making, in the first instance, a hypothetical mould as near the contour of the cavity as was possible by the eye alone, and through successive castings and adjustments finally succeeding in adapting a vulcanite rubber base, which, with the artificial teeth attached to it, perfectly replaced the missing parts.

The aperture through the floor of the antrum greatly complicated the difficulties to be overcome, rendering the suction upon which the artificial maxilla depended for its retention *in situ* so defective, that it was absolutely necessary to close it before the adhesion of the vulcanite could be relied on. The preliminary castings as well as the permanent structure had to be carried up through the floor, and as the aperture necessarily increased upwards, the resistance to the removal of the cast unbroken was an obstacle which it required much ingenuity to overcome. Dr. Perine effected the removal by causing the patient to hold his breath, at the same time blowing into his nostrils with the full force of his own lungs, while an assistant steadily pulled at the cast below.

In seven weeks from the date of Dr. Carnochan's operation, the patient was wearing the artificial jaw and teeth (a permanent set, at least until further absorption renders some re-adjustment necessary) without pain or discomfort. The attachment was perfect, and the

power of mastication was entirely restored, as well as vocal articulation and the contour of the features. The most intimate friends of the patient, not previously informed of the substitution, met him constantly without a suspicion of the change which had occurred since he went to Australia. In view of all the facts, this case, which up to the present date (Nov. 30th) remains in *statu quo*, is one of the most remarkable combined triumphs of surgery and dentistry.

New York, November 30th, 1866.

Bibliographical Notices.

Éléments de Pathologie Interne et de Thérapeutique (Principles of Internal Pathology and Therapeutics). Par NIEMEYER, Professor de Pathologie de Tubingue. Translated into French by Drs. L. CULMANN and CH. SENDEL (of Forbach), with Notes by Dr. V. CORNIL, and an Introduction by Prof. BÉHIER. Volume Second. 8vo. Pp. 919. Paris. 1866.

[Read before the Norfolk (Mass.) District Medical Society, November 14th, 1866, by Z. B. ADAMS, M.D. of Roxbury, and communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THIS volume concludes the work of Niemeyer, and is of about the same dimensions as the first volume, an excellent review of which was read before this Society in January last, by Dr. Weld, of Jamaica Plain (see this JOURNAL, vol. lxxiv. p. 20).

As an elementary book, or manual, this work enjoys a high reputation in Germany, where it has already passed to a sixth edition in the course of four or five years.

"It will serve," says Prof. Béhier in his introduction, "to show us how our German neighbors, in treating of Internal Pathology, seek to avail themselves of the numerous researches made by their countrymen in physiology, and in histology, normal and abnormal."

It is indeed a remarkable and valuable work, giving as it does, in a condensed yet readable form, all the truly important facts in relation to disease which modern German investigation has brought to light. It is not sought always to explain these facts, yet, as a general rule, they are explained, or if not, the various theories that have been proposed by authors being stated, Niemeyer contents himself with saying that these rest upon hypotheses requiring confirmation, or simply that our knowledge upon the subject is still incomplete. Our author is not so fanatical in his own views, nor in those of others, as to force facts to bend to false theories. He has liberality enough to perceive the numerous contradictions which facts insufficiently observed, or too hastily generalized, are sure to present.

The book, in its general tenor, is eminently practical, seeking to draw from every phenomenon of disease some useful application. It is at once a readable, entertaining and instructive work. Of course it is somewhat difficult to judge of the style of an author from translation, but the graphic pictures of the clinical phenomena of disease given in these volumes deserve to make the work a classic. Particu-