

"The extent of the induration of the integument is first carefully examined, and then a tenotomy knife is passed horizontally underneath it, the blade turned upwards, and, the forefinger of the left hand serving as a guide upon the upper surface of the tumour, the hardened structure is cut through, taking care not to wound the surface of the skin; it is, in fact, a subcutaneous division of the disease, and is carried to the utmost extremity of the induration.

"The disease, previously spreading, is at once arrested in the direction of the knife, but it is necessary to make a second puncture at right angles with the first, and thus a crucial incision, or it will still spread in the opposite direction. The bleeding is sometimes considerable, sometimes trifling, and when this has ceased, the whole surface of the tumour should be covered with collodion.

"Immediate relief is felt by the patient as the result of this proceeding, and he is able at once to pursue his ordinary avocations.

"The inflammation speedily resolves, or if any suppuration whatever occurs, it is in very small quantity, and easily finds vent through one of the punctures.

"This operation being somewhat slow and painful it is only where an immediate result is greatly desired that I venture to adopt it, preferring generally the quicker method of dividing the integument completely, but it is interesting to know the fact of its invariable efficacy. An inquiry is often made by the patient whether the malady will return elsewhere if thus suddenly arrested? I do not find that a second boil or carbuncle occurs when thus interrupted more frequently than when the disease is left to take its course; on the contrary, where poultices are used a recurrence is frequent; indeed, this remedy, when used for other disorders, often seems to produce the disease.

"With regard to larger and more neglected carbuncles, where the life of the patient is endangered by their extent, it is worth while making the remark that the disease can at any time be arrested by the knife *while it is still spreading*. But the *crucial* incision is often insufficient where the disease has acquired the size of a cheese plate. It will spread at the circumference between the longitudinal and lateral incisions at some point or other, and an incision made here at once still arrests its progress. A large carbuncle will, therefore, often require to be *starred* to arrest it completely.

"What is called *opening* a carbuncle, that is, making a free incision simply or crucially in the centre, does not, so far as my observation goes, appear to do much good; and I think the doubt about the good effect of operative procedure, which exists in the minds of some, is due to the observation of this method alone."

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45. *How to Relieve Pain in Diseased Bladder.*—The presence of urine, and more especially of uric or phosphatic calculi or concretions at the *bas-fond* of a diseased bladder, sometimes produce violent pains in the bladder, and render all movement painful. In such cases, if the patient be placed on an inclined plane, which, by raising the lower part of the pelvis, throws the contents of the bladder towards the upper and posterior part of the cavity (which is much less sensitive), relief is almost immediately produced, even though other means have been tried in vain.—*Brit. Med. Journal*, Feb. 1, 1862, from *Rev. de Thér. Méd.-Chir.*, Dec. 1, 1861.

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46. *Deafness Consequent on Rheumatism—Noise in the Ears.*—A case of deafness consequent on rheumatism, treated by Mademoiselle Cleret's method, has been related by Dr. DELIOUX. A cannonier, 51 years of age, had an attack of acute rheumatism six months previously, which passed into the chronic form, and was accompanied by deafness of the left ear, with diminution of hearing in the right ear, frequent buzzing at both ears, but no discharges. Received into the Marine Hospital at Toulon, he was subjected to the instillation of ether in both ears. He immediately felt a kind of expansion in the interior of the ear, accompanied by a slight pain, but at once his conception of sounds became less confused. Next day he declared that he heard with his right ear as well as before his illness. The instillation was now only applied to the left ear, and repeated three times on the following day. On the fourth day the hearing of both ears was perfectly restored. The general rheumatism was treated with