was placed on the operating table, and a rent two inches in length made along the anterior border of the sterno-mastoid muscle. The wall of the tube was seized, and a thread attached to it for the purpose of fixation. An opening of the length of half an inch was then made into it; a pair of curved forceps were then introduced in the direction of the lower stricture. They at once struck on something hard, and Prof. Billroth immediately extracted the cherry-stone. The patient now awoke from the effect of the chloroform, and immediately called for water, which he drank and swallowed without any escaping from the wound in the neck. In twenty-six days the wound was completely healed without bad results. The second case promised less favourably from the first. The man was forty-four years of age; the constriction had first attracted attention on account of the difficulty it occasioned in swallowing at the beginning of last year; but he was taught how to apply the bougies, and was dismissed relieved. In June, however, he returned much worse; he suffered from violent cough, and was much emaciated. A bougie of considerable size could still be passed. The left vocal chord was paralyzed; the cancerous nature of the affection became evident, and the operation was determined upon with the object of preserving life but for a short time longer. He died on the following day.—*The Practitioner*, March, 1871.

33. *Wound penetrating the Stomach, with the escape of Food, followed by complete Recovery.*—Dr. GAETANO PEYRANI reports (*Lo Sperimentale, Giornale Critico de Medicina e Chirurgia*, Jan. 1871) the following remarkable case of this:—

On the 25th of March, 1870, Giovanni Nieto, whilst diverting himself with some companions in a game, received a blow from a knife in the epigastric region. Being invited to see him immediately by the physician of the neighbourhood, I was with him two hours after the reception of the wound. I found him in his house, resting on a mattress, clothed only with his shirt, the anterior portion of which presented a slit of some size. It was covered with blood partly dry and partly fresh, also with some portions of food, consisting of beans half masticated and mixed with fragments of pastry which composed the soup of which Nieto had partaken about two hours before he had been wounded. Above the shirt a portion of the great epiploon was exposed to view, of about four fingers in length, protruding externally from an incised wound of a triangular figure, with a superficial extent of about three centimetres still bleeding, and situated some millimetres to the right of the linea alba, between the ensiform cartilage and the umbilicus. Some other remains of the same articles of food were found in the lips of the wound, and also upon almost the whole surface of the abdomen.

No doubt existed with respect to the nature of the diagnosis, as the wounded man declared that he had eaten these articles a little while before the deplorable accident.

My first care was to cleanse the entire surface of the abdomen. I then replaced in the opening the portion of epiploon which protruded, applied to the solution of continuity the twisted suture, and over all a compress and bandage.

The general condition of the subject of this accident was highly favourable. He was forty-three years of age, of an arterio-sanguine temperament, his constitution was healthy and robust, his skin brown, he was quick and active in his daily avocations, and had never suffered from any diseases save those of infancy. Besides, he had no hiccup or vomiting, no fainting, and very slight local pain. He declared, after his wound had been attended to, that he felt well. I ordered him to abstain entirely from food, to use ice internally, and directed him to take ten centigrammes of Baumé's Extract in four equal pills, one every three hours. About two hours after, I left the patient quiet and tranquil as if he was only suffering from some simple injury.

On the next day, the 26th, I returned. I found Nieto in a condition not dissimilar to that of the preceding evening, that is, he was calm and full of hope of a very rapid recovery. There was no gastro-enteric disturbance, no febrile excitement, nor any local pain. I repeated the prescription of the pre-

vious evening, with the addition of some elysters of animal broth, in order to re-excite somewhat the intestinal peristaltic movements, in consideration of a certain torpor of the bowels of which Nieto complained a little. Some fecal matter came away, but without any trace of blood.

On the 27th, I again visited my wounded man, and found nothing new; a slight serous infiltration had stained the bandages in part, which I removed and reapplied. As the patient desired food, I permitted him to have a little fresh milk, a spoonful at a time, continuing the pills of Baumé's extract, and the ice.

After the third day I commenced to employ some slight treatment, from which he experienced relief. On the tenth day, from his having experienced no visceral disturbance, nor giving any evidence of inflammatory excitement or fever, I began really to hope for a fortunate result. The appetite having returned, I permitted him to have vegetable gelatine alternately with chicken broth and goats' milk. On the same day I removed one of the needles from the wound, and ascertained that it was partly reunited. On the 14th, I took away the other two needles, which were surrounded with healthy granulations. From this time I made use of nitrate of silver to restrain them from retarding the complete reunion of the wound. With this plan of simply touching with caustic, and the use of lint, we reached the thirty-sixth day, when Nieto began to experience some heat and pain, which gradually increased from day to day, and the part became swollen and red. I then applied, occasionally, a leech and emollient plaster, and, as the constipation had yielded to simple enemata, I advised absolute diet. From the sixth day from which the inflammatory process (or deep phlegmon) had exhibited itself, which seemed to involve the integuments and the underlying muscles, I resorted to the injection of a solution of sulphate of soda, which I have often found useful, and which I continued for fifteen days. After this, or, to speak more definitely, on the fifty-fifth day, Nieto was completely well.

By the 1st of July this man was able to resume his occupation as a fisherman.

This case, which I regard rather as unique than rare, suggests certain considerations: How did the cicatrization of the wound of the stomach take place? Allow me to develop my opinion with respect to this point. The organ in question, when it received the wound, found itself, as it were, almost full of food, which, of necessity, caused a protuberance in that region. Being opened for a space of more than two centimetres, it became emptied of its contents. In this way, the distension of its walls being lessened, there was a diminution of the gastric mass, then a thickening of the parietes by contraction, or, at least, by the retirement of the same. The wound, under the influence of this modification, should necessarily be placed in a condition much more favourable for its reunion, as is the case with the uterus under the influence of varying circumstances. Hence, by the accustomed secretion of plastic material, the lips of the wound, after a lapse of time, became completely closed. I think, also, that the material influence of the omentum was not entirely unconcerned in the cure of the wound itself.

Another consideration: Why is it that Nieto did not experience any sinister effects from the wound? In the first place it must be observed that no important vessels or nerves were implicated. In the second place, his health could not have been in a more flourishing condition. Every circumstance connected with his constitution, temperament, and mode of life, tended to place him in a state favourable to recovery. He was, as it were, inaccessible to the causes which render dangerous the injury usually resulting from the wounding of so important an organ as the stomach.

Within the past few days (August 10th, 1870) I have seen the man, and find that he has fully resumed his occupation. He is in the best health, and has only a linear cicatrix to show the injury he has received. He suffers no ill effects from fatigue, and requires no supporting bandages or other appliances.

F. P. P.