a fair share of health, and was in intellect by no means deficient. His father died of the same disease in the face.

WOUND OF THE PALM OF THE HAND.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

R. HANDY, aged 18, of Fitzwilliam, punctured his hand with a common jack-knife, the 8th of April, 1860. It was dressed with adhesive plaster and bandage. The wound healed externally by the first intention. Three weeks from the time it was dressed, it burst open and bled profusely. An attempt was made to tie the radial artery. The hæmorrhage continuing unabated, I was called to see the patient for the first time on the 27th. At this time there was a diffused accumulation of blood in the subcutaneous and inter-muscular tissue, sometimes called diffused aneurism. I removed what coagulated blood I could, and applied a graduated compress, and secured it as recommended by Dr. Druitt, in wounds of the palmar arch. This arrested the hæmorrhage for four or five days, when the blood burst out on one side of the compress with as much force as at first. I then cut down to the palmar arch and ligatured the bleeding arteries, as recommended by Dr. Gross, Vol. I., pp. 9, 12, who says, "Wounds of the hand, especially of the palmar arch, are best managed by free incisions and the application of two ligatures. It is a great folly under such circumstances, nay it is positively worse than folly, to tamper with the comfort and welfare of the patient by the use of compression, either direct, or indirect, if the vessel be of any considerable size. Only time is wanted; the bleeding will return whenever the mechanical support is taken off,"—which proved too true in the above case. He farther states, that we now and then read of cases in which the brachial artery has been tied for the arrest of hæmorrhage of the palmar arch. Can there be anything more absurd than such a procedure, or show a greater degree of ignorance of the anatomy of the hand? The advice of John Bell, in his Principles of Surgery, in regard to the treatment of wounded arteries in general, cannot be too strongly enforced here: "Meet the danger boldly, and don't be afraid to look your enemy in the face."

I. P. WILLIS.

Royalston, Dec. 10, 1860.

FATAL CASE OF PAROTITIS.

BY DR. A. B. BANCROFT, CHARLESTOWN.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

ON November 20th, a boy, 4 years of age, complained of not being well, and went to bed without his supper. In the morning, he