

the waves from the larynx. That is to say, a part of the laryngeal sound being reflected, and a part transmitted; the greater the part reflected, the greater also is the part transmitted. The voice in the room, however, appears to be strengthened to a listener in the room, by its reflection by the walls of the room, at its expense to one outside. Walsh's theory of the increase of the voice within the bronchi by reflection of sound, differs from Skoda only in supposing that the waves from different parts of the lung concerned, meet in some large bronchus, the result being an increase of sound at the focal point, an echo. The objection is, that the ear should be at the focal point to appreciate the echo, not outside the chest.

The assumption of the vibrations of the bronchial walls by Skoda, was necessary to carry out an hypothesis unduly entertained, and to give the appearance of completeness to his views. "Physics teach us, however," according to Skoda, that "sound does not readily pass from the air into dense bodies," and that "the more solid a body is, the more difficult is the passage of sound from the air into it;" also that "sound is always reflected in passing from one medium into another," and "the more dissimilar the media are, in respect of density and cohesion, the *greater* is the reflection of the sound, and the *less* freely does it pass from the one into the other." The more dense the lung tissues, then, the less freely does the sound from the air of the bronchi pass into them; or the more dense the tissues, the more feeble the vibrations excited in them by the aerial waves of the bronchi.

CASE OF OBSTRUCTION OF THE SUPERIOR LONGITUDINAL SINUS.

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THE following case, illustrating the above condition, is thought by the writer, from its extreme infrequency, to present some points of interest.

Aug. 24th, 1858.—A little girl aged eight years, the daughter of S. P., a Frenchman, was under a tree in which was a boy busily engaged knocking off the fruit with a stick some five feet long. Accidentally dropping the stick, it fell perpendicularly upon the girl's head, directly in the median line. Blood poured forth in a large stream, and, but for a physician near at hand, who was present in a few minutes and arrested the hæmorrhage by means of compression with the finger, she must have died in a very short time.

An examination into the nature of the wound resulted in finding a triangular depression of bone into the superior longitudinal sinus, at about the middle of the sagittal suture. The fragment was depressed from behind forward, and the depression admitted easily the end of the index finger. Several attempts were made to

elevate it by means of the elevator, but were followed by the recurrence of such alarming hæmorrhage as to compel us to desist, and to press the fragment back again into the sinus that the patient might not expire upon the table. The child was already nearly ex-sanguine, and the resources of our art being exhausted, it was determined to leave the case to nature. Of course, death was the only rational prognosis. Contrary, however, to the prognosis of physicians, and adding another to the many anomalous cases of recovery from serious injuries to the cranium or its contents, the child recovered rapidly, without the supervention of inflammation, and is now in good health.

The fossa or depression yet remains, and is the only trace or sequence of the injury.

What renders this case more particularly interesting is, that here, as in the case of Dr. Isaacs, which was reported at the last session of the New York State Medical Society, by Dr. C. S. Goodrich, and is included in its Transactions, there must have occurred a complete obstruction of the venous circulation in the great sinus.

In Dr. Isaacs's case the obstruction was the result of the slow growth of a tumor obliterating the sinus for several inches, the circulatory change being therefore effected gradually, and, as might be expected, without any disturbance which could be attributed to this cause alone.

In the above detailed case, the obstruction was sudden and apparently complete; the depressed fragment forming a perfect and permanent dam to the current of blood in the sinus, and yet there resulted no discoverable impairment of function.

The case is interesting as illustrating the facility with which veins and sinuses within the cranium may take upon themselves vicarious duty without serious results. D. W. HERSHEY, M.D.

Williamsville, N. Y., Nov. 15, 1859.

Correspondence.

EDINBURGH, OCTOBER 26, 1859.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—My last communication was indited from the extreme south of Scotland, and related to the dietetic peculiarities of various nations; from the south, my course has been, as you perceive, northerly, and while *excelsior* as to latitude, I might, in this gem of cities, attain to a higher flight than the subject of gastronomics can prompt, and that without much effort of fancy, for "Auld Reekie" has lost none of its outward beauty; and the charm which invests its romantic history and associations, seems as vivid and powerful as when the Wizard of the North first wove his spells and sang his lays. But, for your staid and practical pages, some professional impressions will be more appropriate—accept such rapid observations as I have had opportunity to make.