

fect; the eyelid remained open, so that his attention was first drawn to the complaint from an inability to read for any time, from an uneasiness and slight inflammation of the eye, evidently caused by the want of action in the palpebra. When he laughed, the mouth was drawn violently and spasmodically to the right; and when he attempted to drink, he had no power on the left side to close the lips on the vessel, and the liquid consequently flowed out of the mouth; the left nostril was motionless, and the whole of the side of the face appeared swollen from the relaxed state of the muscles, but, on accurate examination, no swelling existed. The case was clear enough, the 7th pair of nerves, on the left side, were affected; the branches of the 5th contained their healthy action, for the power of motion only was lost, sensation remained unimpaired. I examined the course of the 7th from its exit from the temporal bone, but could discover no tumour which would interrupt its action and account for the symptoms; neither had he received any injury, or suffered any pain at all in that situation; yet the paralysis had been preceded by no immediate pain in the head, and, in short, appeared completely local.

Upon inquiry, however, I found that, at intervals, *some time back*, he had felt what he called a "fullness of the head," which sensation had always been relieved by aperient doses of calomel and senna. When the paralysis had existed a day or two, he felt a degree of warmth on the scalp of the affected side, apparent on the application of the hand, but the relative degree above that of the other not considerable.

It seemed evident, that the cause of paralysis was either in Fallopius' aqueduct, or in the brain at the origin of the 7th, and I inclined to the latter opinion, by reason of the total absence of pain in the region of the temporal bone, which could not have been the case if any arterial action had existed there sufficient to have caused pressure on the nerve in its passage through the bone. My practice was, therefore, general. He was bled by the arm, and leeches, 24 at a time, were applied to the head, at repeated intervals; he was desired to abstain from meat, and he lived chiefly on farinaceous vegetables; and took, for the first few days, viij. grains of calomel at night, with a solution of magnes. sulph. and antim. tart., once or twice in the day; blisters were applied to the nape of the neck; and the unpleasant sensation of heat, above referred to, was completely relieved by sponging the part affected with cold water. Under this treatment he gradually recovered. I should say, though, that after the first two days the dose of calomel was altered to three grains, which he continued

to take every night, with the design to excite a gentle mercurial action in the system. He is now perfectly well; the greatest evident degree of amendment was after the application of a blister, when the mercury was just coming into action.

I have been told, cases of paralysis of the muscles of the face, depending on an affection of the 7th pair of nerves, are by no means rare; but I must confess, the result of my own experience does not make it appear so. I was attached for a long period (very nearly ten years) to the Bristol Dispensary, where from 1,100 to 1,200 patients were annually under my immediate care, and I never saw a case precisely similar.

I know not, Mr. Editor, whether you will think this case worth publication; if not, suppress it by all means; I send it, because I think, with those you have already recorded in your Number of Saturday last, it may be of some practical use, more particularly to the junior branches of the profession, by whom your periodical is very generally read, and not at all under the idea that any degree of merit attaches to me for the mode of treatment I adopted.

I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

GEORGE M'DONALD,

Member of the College.

St. Michael's Rectory,

Bristol, April 15.

#### CASE OF POPLITEAL ANEURISM,

*In which the Operation was successful on a Patient upwards of Ninety Years of age.*

BY F. D. STEPHENSON, ESQ., SURGEON,  
WORCESTER.

#### *To the Editor of THE LANCET*

SIR,—The great age of the patient, and the success attending an operation in the advanced stage of popliteal aneurism, may induce you to give the following case a page in your valuable and widely circulated publication.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. STEPHENSON, Surgeon.

Worcester, High-st., April 27, 1828.

On the 13th of August, 1824, I was requested to visit Mrs. F. —; she was ninety years of age, and stated that she had always enjoyed excellent health till within the last six months, during which period she was afflicted with erysipelas in her hand and legs: for two months past, she had observed a tumour in the left ham, which had, of late, increased in size considerably, and

become painful. On examination, I found it enveloping the sides and upper part of the knee. The base of the tumour presented an inflamed surface, the size of half a crown; at this point, the pulsation was alarmingly strong. The constitution seemed little disturbed; pulse 70, and full; tongue clean; bowels regular. From the above circumstances, I recommended an immediate operation, which was readily granted by the patient. Previous to securing the femoral artery, I examined the arteries at the wrist, and found them yielding, and apparently free from osseous deposit. The operation was performed in the usual way, tying the artery (which was healthy) on the inner edge of the sartorius muscle. On tying it, the pulsation in the tumour ceased entirely. The wound was brought together by a few straps of adhesive plaister, and the leg and thigh covered in a flannel bandage, from the toes to the hip; bottles of warm water were continually kept to the foot. On visiting my patient two hours after the operation, I was pleased to find her in a profound sleep.

Five o'clock, P.M. Considerable pain in the leg, with numbness. Limb warm; pulse 80. Sumat tinct. opii. gutt. xxx.

19. Passed a good night; less pain; skin cool. Limb warm; pulse 75. In the evening she had an increase of pain in the limb, attended with heat of skin and thirst; she took half an ounce of castor oil.

20. Restless night; bowels freely evacuated; considerable discharge through the bandage, of a foetid nature. I therefore removed the outer covering, and applied a poultice over the plasters.

21. The whole of the dressings removed; the wound had united in its upper part, and there was a considerable discharge of pus from the lower part. Repeat the poultice. So little variation took place in the case, till the 18th day from the operation, that I shall continue the case briefly from that time. The ligature came away on the 5th of September; and, on that day, she complained of great pain on the dorsum of the foot, which was accounted for, by two discoloured patches the size of a shilling each. A generous diet was prescribed, and poultices applied to the foot. In a few days a separation of the dead integument took place, and three weeks from the operation, my patient was free from uneasiness. The tumour in the ham was greatly diminished; and, in consequence of Mrs. F—— leaving Worcester for Herefordshire, I did not see her for six months, when she much astonished me, by saying that she had been in the habit of walking half a mile frequently, without inconvenience. On inquiry, I was happy to find she is still in good health. She is now 93 years of age.

PETITION TO PARLIAMENT OF THE STUDENTS  
OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.

To the Right Honourable and Honourable the Knights, Burgesses, and Citizens in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland now assembled.

The Petition of the Students in Anatomy of Trinity College, Dublin, humbly sheweth, that your petitioners are much gratified to learn, that the subject of anatomical instruction has attracted the attention of your honourable House; but they look with serious apprehension to the chance of your adopting the measure of attempting to procure the necessary number of subjects, by consigning the bodies of malefactors to dissection; they are persuaded that this measure would be quite inadequate to supply any one of the principal anatomical schools of the metropolis, while it would greatly increase, and almost justify the repugnance which is so generally felt to dissection throughout England and Scotland. Hitherto no difficulty has been found in procuring bodies in Ireland, the anatomical schools in Dublin (of which there are many) having been abundantly supplied, and at as low a price as in France, or any part of the Continent; but they anticipate that strong prejudices against the practice of anatomy would be excited in this country, if by any new act of the legislature, dissection were made a mark of dishonour. If the present law respecting dissection after the execution of certain criminals were repealed, they are convinced that every enlightened man would wish that his body might be employed for yielding useful knowledge, rather than it should be deposited in the earth, where it undergoes the most disgusting changes; they therefore beg leave to recommend your honourable House to institute regulations which would encourage and legalize the voluntary appropriation of the body to the only honourable use to which it can be applied under such regulations they believe that popular prejudices would soon subside, and the exhumation of the dead become unnecessary; and your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed in behalf of the whole Class,

J. NOLAN, M.D

The following has been signed by a number of respectable persons, both in and out of the profession, and is constantly receiving new names:—

We whose names are hereunto affixed being convinced that the knowledge of anatomy is of the utmost value to mankind, inasmuch as it illustrates various branches of natural and moral science, and constitutes