

upon the surface. Hence the importance of carefully searching for and securing such cutaneous vessels.

7. Pressure of Soft Parts upon a Sharp Margin of an Amputated Bone.

When, in performing amputation, the surgeon has unfortunately not preserved soft parts; and especially skin of sufficient extent to cover completely the face of the stump, in his solicitude to close the parts as accurately as possible, the integuments, and even the muscles, are sometimes drawn with much force over the sharp margin of the amputated bone. Great irritation must necessarily be the consequence; and we know that sloughing often results from it. This therefore must be occasionally a source of troublesome hemorrhage, as I am confident I have witnessed in several instances.

From what has been advanced, is to be inferred the general precept, that in the treatment of all wounds in which many small vessels may have been divided, everything should be avoided in the treatment which renders the condition of the part uncomfortable to the sensations of the patient, especially all irritating traction and unnecessary pressure.

Balt. Med. and Surg. Jour. and Rev.

SHOT PASSED FROM THE BLADDER.

Case in which Shot were discharged from the Urinary Bladder. By WILLIAM WATSON, M.D. of Bedford, Pennsylvania—communicated in a letter to Professor N. R. SMITH, M.D.

THE following interesting case has been communicated to me by my intelligent friend, Dr. William Watson, of Bedford. I would venture to suggest that, as these shot (which are now in my possession) have evidently the battered appearance of those which have been discharged from a fowling piece, they probably were swallowed by the patient in the flesh of game which she may have eaten;—that in passing the alimentary canal, they became lodged in some cell or follicle, in some portion, probably, of the sigmoid flexure of the colon;—that adhesion being established between this portion of the intestine, and the peritoneal covering of the bladder, the shot were conveyed by ulceration into the bladder, without entering the general cavity of the abdomen. The symptoms of local and constitutional disorder appear to me to confirm this supposition. Your readers are aware that analogous cases are on record.

Yours, &c.

N. R. SMITH.

“I will relate in a very few words a case which occurred in a visiter to the Bedford Springs, in the last summer, of so extraordinary a character that I fear it will be considered incredible.

“Mrs. M. a lady who had been married but a few days, with her husband, came to the springs probably for amusement and change of scene. She had had a slight bilious attack before she left her home, but had recovered and was quite well when she came to the springs. Two or three days subsequent to her arrival, she had a recurrence of bilious symptoms assuming the form of remittent fever. The attack was mild in character, and readily yielded to the common means of prescription;

but on the third day of her attack, she was seized with severe pain in the right hypochondria extending towards the navel, and back towards the kidney—the pain, she said, resembled colic. I was out of town at the time, and did not see her for some hours after its occurrence. She was relieved by means of hot applications made externally. The pain returned in the night, with the desire of frequent micturition; she was finally relieved, not only of this last symptom but of the abdominal pain, by a discharge of what she called gravel, followed by a copious flow of urine. She informed me of this fact in the morning, when I visited her—and showed me the gravel which she had passed; she said the servant girl had detected it in the chamber pot, on emptying it. She said there were five or six other particles, which had been lost. On examining those particles, I found they were shot. The fact was so incredible that I made the strictest examination, both of the servant girl and the patient. The latter informed me, that she certainly passed some substance which afforded her instant relief—and the girl said that she found the particles in the pot when emptying it, and that when she brought the vessel in before it had been used at the time of this discharge, nothing was in it. The landlady, the girl, and the patient, had the fullest confidence that what they gave me was discharged by the patient. I enclose you the shot said to have been discharged. When given to me the shot were less smooth than round, and I did not immediately apprehend them to be shot, though they appeared to be a strange species of gravel; and when I returned home, I struck one of the particles with a small hammer, and found it to be shot. I immediately returned to the patient, and resumed my inquiries and examinations—I was again assured that the patient had passed the shot, with entire relief; but on closely questioning her, there seemed to be some doubt whether the discharge was from the urethra or anus, fecal matter having been passed when emptying the bladder. The patient had no recollection of having ever swallowed shot. She had felt a similar pain some years before, which passed off without remedial means. I do not doubt that the patient and attendants believed the statement made to me. I submit to you what I believe to be a fact, without any reflections on the subject, being incompetent to account for an occurrence out of the usual course of things.”—*Ibid.*

TREATMENT OF NATURAL OR CONGENITAL PHYMOSIS.

BEING THE SUBSTANCE OF A PAPER READ BEFORE THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NEW HAVEN COUNTY, APRIL 20TH, 1829. BY V. M. DOW, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

PHYMOSIS, as is well known, consists in a permanent contraction of the orifice of the prepuce, rendering it incapable of being contracted over the glans penis with facility. The degree of contraction differs in different cases, and is sometimes so great as to partially obstruct the discharge of urine. More usually, however, the affection, when congenital, is such as to cause no inconvenience until the patient approaches adult age, when it begins to be regarded as a most undesirable imperfection, and at is time of life it usually is that surgical aid is solicited.