

ciety, showed the atlas, which he had received from Dr. Atwood. In the recent state, the soft parts separated readily from the body of the bone, and from the laminae, except at their posterior extremity, as in the case of a bone that had been pretty thoroughly macerated. The four articular surfaces were quite denuded of cartilage, but the intervertebral substance, above and below, seemed unaffected. The spinal marrow and membranes within this vertebra looked sufficiently well. Now that the soft parts had been removed, and the bone had been dried, the surface of the body was seen to be roughened, and the upper articulating processes decidedly carious, though the lower were smooth.

A CASE OF PYÆMIA FOLLOWING A WOUND OF THE FEMORAL ARTERY AND AMPUTATION.

By PETER PINEO, M.D., of Hyannis, Mass.

THE following case may present some spiritualistic, as well as surgical, interest:—

Mr. —, a somewhat noted Spiritualist, who believed he had seen departed friends face to face, and had repeatedly received messages from the spirit land, was induced to suspect his wife's faithfulness. His jealousy at length rested upon an unfortunate musical professor. After urging the man to go to his house to tune his piano, and saying that he had to be absent from home during the afternoon, he secreted himself in his own cellar to listen. Very soon, he imagined that piano-tuning was neglected, and unnecessary conversation with his wife was in progress. In his frenzy, he rushed from the cellar into the room, and made an attack upon the surprised gentleman with a jack-knife, the blade of which was exceedingly sharp, and ground to a point. He knocked the man down and commenced stabbing him in the lower extremities. During the encounter, the assailant received a severe wound in his thigh, from his own knife, in his own hand. The wound was more than four inches deep. The knife struck the bone, and, glancing off, wounded the femoral artery, as it dips down into the thigh to form the popliteal; he lost, in a short time, a large quantity of blood, producing partial syncope.

I saw him in about twenty minutes after the occurrence, and, after etherizing, made the necessary incisions, and tied the wounded vessel *in situ*, above and below the point of injury. A bandage was then evenly, but not tightly, applied from the toes to the thigh.

During the first week, we were encouraged to hope that the leg was being nourished by collateral circulation. In the latter part of the second week, however, unfavorable symptoms manifested themselves; it became evident that gangrene had commenced, and it was decided to amputate. With the advice and assistance of Dr. Leonard, of Sandwich, and Dr. Doane, of Hyannis, amputation was done at the lower part of the middle third of the thigh.

Reaction was slow, but at length complete; and the third week after removing the limb, the stump had nearly healed, the appetite and strength were good, and the patient was apparently out of danger.

One day, after dressing the limb, and while everything appeared satisfactory and promising, I said to the patient, in the presence of

Dr. Doane, "Well, sir, I see no reason why you should not get well, and be about soon." "Oh," said he, "I have always known I should get well. I was told by my spirit friends that all this would happen; and they told me, also, that I should pull through, all right. Now," said he, "mark my words, doctors, if I do not get well, do you never have any confidence in Spiritualism, hereafter."

The latter part of the sixth week from the time of receiving the wound, a severe chill supervened, which was repeated at intervals, followed by delirium and great distress, and he died the forty-fifth day after the injury.

It is just to state that the first ten days after the injury, he was in a condition of great mental exaltation, and almost night and day would recite the occurrence and its causes to innumerable persons, notwithstanding the strictest prohibition, advised and repeated again and again.

MANAGEMENT OF THE PLACENTA IN ABORTION.

By W. A. HARVEY, M.D., Chicago, Ill.

ABORTIONS, which have become so frequent of late, and so disastrous, should command in ready use all the resources of our art, to diminish their evil effects.

Although I may not hope to offer anything new on this subject, I may, at least, call the attention of the profession anew, and with emphasis, to one unfortunate complication of it, namely, to the usual retention of the placenta, and its attendant evils, after the expulsion of the foetus, in cases occurring from the third to the fourth month of pregnancy.

For the first two months after conception, the foetus and its sacs are relatively so small, and their connection with the uterus so feeble, that they are expelled together *en masse*; also, after the fourth month, and as full time is approached, the placenta readily follows the birth of the foetus. But there is a period, and one, too, of the greatest liability to abortion, when, from the greater volume of the placenta, and its more firm connections with the womb, the foetus alone may be expelled, and the after-birth remain intact. Pains may now cease for days, or weeks; the patient, and physician also, deceived by this circumstance, and by the promiscuous appearance of the clots, suppose the woman to be "through and all right," and so the attendant takes his leave of the case, but with the certainty of being recalled, it may be, only to witness the fatal results of heedlessness or unskillfulness.

Mrs. C., aged 25 years, pregnant the third time, aborted September 17, 1873, forty miles away in the country. One week after, while at her domestic duties, she had a sudden "gush of blood," and flooding; this was repeated many times, and without pain, until Nov. 8th, when, in the meantime having removed to this city, she was again attacked with alarming flooding, and prostration from the previous hæmorrhage. The fourth physician who treated this case was now called, and prescribed cold and morphine; this having only a temporary effect, on the following morning, Nov. 9th, I saw the patient, and, from the history given, suspected retained placenta, a suspicion which was