

HOSPITAL REPORTS.



GUY'S HOSPITAL.

John F., aged 25, from Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, was admitted here, November 19th, under the care of Sir Astley Cooper.

He states that two years since, the 25th of last September, when loading a barge at Queen-hithe Wharf, Thames-street, a cask of sugar fell from the crane, and came in violent contact against his loins. The shock was so great that it occasioned insensibility for some hours; after having been bled, he recovered his mental faculties, together with his bodily strength, and was enabled to assist in working the barge to Henley, where he arrived in about a week after the accident. Suffered little from the injury during the voyage; but the day after his arrival, he was attacked by severe pain in the loins, and was likewise incapable of voiding his urine. He applied to Mr. Young, a Surgeon at Henley, who, after some difficulty, succeeded in passing a catheter; he says that its introduction was attended with very acute pain, and considerable bleeding—the retention continuing, he learnt the manner of using the instrument, and regularly introduced it himself, until the following April, when becoming much worse, he went under the care of Mr. Brooks, of Henley. At this time he had violent pains about the lumbar vertebræ, and in the perineum; his testicles

painful, if pressed, but were not swollen; blisters were applied to the perineum and loins; into the latter were also introduced issues and setons, and he was repeatedly cupped; all these means failed to procure relief, with the exception of cupping, and the benefit derived from this was but temporary. Continued under the care of Mr. Brooks until last April, at which time he applied to another surgeon at Henley. This Gentleman, it appears, adopted similar methods to those previously employed, and with as little advantage.

From the time that he first applied to Mr. Brooks, to the present period (Dec. 1st), has suffered much from violent pricking sensations in his fingers and toes. Says that he is not more than half the size that he was before the accident occurred; is very weak, possessing scarcely any muscular power;—pain still severe in the loins, inclining to the right side;—bowels generally confined;—motions well charged with bile;—appetite defective;—body continues wasting;—his testicles (if he ever had any) have been absorbed, as scarcely a vestige of either remains—a small substance somewhat resembling the epididymis may still be felt, but the body of each testicle is quite gone. Spermatic chord perfectly natural;—says that his testes were of ordinary magnitude previous to the accident, but from which time they have continued to diminish.

It is a curious circumstance, connected with this young man, that he has no beard. Indeed, there is no more appearance of

hair upon his chin, than upon the face of an infant.

Dec. 3. Has taken no medicine since his admission. Sir A. Cooper now ordered him the following:—

R. Pulv: Lyttæ gr. $\frac{1}{4}$
Terebinthinæ Chiæ gr. v.
Fiat pil:—ter in die sumend.

Dec. 8. Considerable pain in the perineum, and frequent desire to discharge the contents of the bladder; continues to introduce the catheter. This operation is now attended with a burning sensation in the urethra; ordered to take but two pills;—bowels confined;—pulse 110;—tongue clean;—incessant thirst.

Dec. 11 No alteration.

Dec. 15. Last night at eight o'clock, urine passed of its own accord, after the daily introduction of the catheter for two years and a quarter. For three or four hours before its discharge took place, he suffered much from very severe pain in the perineum, loins, and across the abdomen. To-day is tolerably easy, but this morning was again obliged to use the catheter.

Dec. 16. The same as yesterday,

Dec. 17. Has discontinued the use of the catheter. Now makes water in a perfectly natural manner. Pain in the loins still severe, but is much less in the perineum. Pricking sensation of the fingers and toes no longer exists.

Dec. 19. No alteration.

Dec. 21. Very acute pain in the loins. Bowels confined. Less thirst. No appetite. Has not passed the catheter since the 17th. Continues to expel his urine as though in perfect health.

Popliteal Aneurism.

Thomas M.*, aged 40, labourer, was admitted into Accident Ward, Aug. 29, 1823, under the care of Sir Astley Cooper, with popliteal aneurism of the right side, for which he was operated on by that surgeon the following day, Aug. 30th. At the time of his admission the right leg, foot, and thigh were extremely swollen; but of the natural appearance, except in the ham where there was a discoloration of the skin, it being slightly black. Soon after the operation the swelling of the leg and thigh went down, but the foot continued swollen till about three weeks after that time, when mortification of the (right) foot came on, which made considerable progress, and in ten weeks from the operation the foot was removed by Sir Astley just above the ankle; that is, the bones of the leg were merely sawed through, as they had been laid quite bare by the progress of the complaint, and since that period the limb has been gradually getting to its present state.

Condition of the limb.—The lower part of the tibia projects about three inches, and is quite uncovered; the fibula projects

This is the case of Popliteal Aneurism, alluded to by Sir A. Cooper in the *Lancet*, No. 9, p. 294.

to the same extent, but the outer edge of this bone is laid bare two-thirds of the way up the leg, and may be easily moved. On the outer part of the leg, and extending a little way behind to the same extent, is a large wound which is covered by very healthy looking granulations, from which proceeds a little purulent discharge; the inner and fore part of the leg are sound, excepting for about an inch and a half towards the lower part round the tibia, where there is a similar appearance to that on the outside of the limb; the edges of the wound are white. The limb itself is painful, but not so much as it was; it is placed in a flexed position on a pillow, resting on the outside; it is enveloped with some simple dressing spread on lint; round this some tow is put, and lastly the part of the pillow on which the limb rests is covered with oil silk; the clothes are kept from the limb by means of a fracture cradle. The applications are renewed once a day. † There is a swelling in the ham, and inner part of the lower third of the thigh; it is however much smaller and less hard than it was.

General Health.—The patient is much reduced in size, being formerly stout; of a strong constitution, never in the habit of taking spirits, but used occasionally to drink freely of porter; countenance pale; pupil a little dilated; tongue

† The time at which the limb is generally dressed is 11 a. m., when any one may have an opportunity of seeing it.

of a bright red colour, moist; thirsty, particularly within the last fortnight; appetite very good; bowels open once a day; slight cough, and expectorates a little mucus; urine natural; pulse quick and full, 120; can take a full inspiration without pain; respiration natural; no pain on pressure in any part of the abdomen; rest good; takes no medicine; is allowed a pint of porter, and about four ounces of animal food a day.

Very little alteration has taken place in the elephantiasis and sloughing pudendum cases since last week.

The accidents admitted since our last, are an injury to the wrist, a laceration of the scalp, and a fracture of the fibula.

No operations have been performed here this week.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

DEC. 24TH.

The case of burn, mentioned in our last, was examined. There was found effusion of serum, between the membranes, and into the ventricles of the brain. The bronchiæ were also very much inflamed, and full of thin mucus.

Nose Case.

The place in the forehead from which the skin was removed, for the purpose of making the new nose, is nearly well; and the man himself is in *statu quo* as before the operation, excepting at the upper part of the nose, where there is a small piece of new skin.