

On December 16th there was still much distress in breathing. Pulse 108; respirations 40. A thin sero-purulent discharge escaped from the wound, which was not increased by turning the patient on either side. During respiration the air passed inwards and outwards through the wound. On introducing a probe, it passed completely through the sternum by a channel surrounded on all sides by bare bone. When the probe was left in, it moved upwards and downwards synchronously with the action of the heart. At the situation of the opening, the lower third of the sternum was separated from the upper two-thirds, and the two pieces of bone could be made to move upon one another with a grating noise.

Considerable relief was obtained from the free exhibition of opiates and stimulants; but on December 11th the patient appeared much worse. He had become very emaciated. There was a deep red circumscribed flush on both cheeks. Tongue dry in the centre. Pulse 112, very feeble. Breathing at times was very hurried, at others, tolerably full and easy. Nearly two ounces of pus were let out by an incision made at the top of the right shoulder. This abscess did not seem to have any connection with the shoulder-joint. The physical signs of the chest did not indicate any extension of the pulmonary mischief.

The dyspnoea increased. Great pain and distress were occasioned by the two portions of sternum riding over, and grating on each other during respiration. On December 12th the lad's face was very dusky, and he was evidently sinking, and at six p.m. he died, his entire illness having lasted about thirty days. The skin did not present the slightest tinge of yellow, and at no stage of his illness had there been any rigors.

*Autopsy Forty-four Hours after Death.*—Body much emaciated. Right thigh and leg swollen and oedematous; left lower limb not so. The right femoral vein was compressed by an abscess beneath the fascia at the upper and anterior part of the thigh, which contained about an ounce of pus. On laying open the abscess above the right shoulder, the extremity of the acromion was found exposed and dead, and a portion of necrosed bone the size of a pea was loose and detached. The shoulder joint was intact. Chest.—The artificial opening in the skin led into an empty circumscribed cavity behind the sternum nearly two inches in diameter, bounded in front by the sternum itself, which was bare and black; and posteriorly by the ligaments and aponeurosis. At the level of the third rib, the sternum was completely separated into two pieces at what appeared to be a natural articulation. An inch and a-half of the lower portion and half an inch of the upper were quite bare, and of a dark hue on their posterior aspect. The opposed ends of the two pieces