

Dec. 3.—The gangrene is within two inches of the shoulder joint, and several suspicious looking spots near the axilla.

Dec. 5.—The stench is intolerable; wrapped the hand and forearm in cloths wetted with a solution of chloride of lime. The boy was evidently sinking; the wine had little effect on the pulse, and as he had been used to drink whiskey, I substituted it in the place of the wine. Continue the other remedies.

8 P. M.—Rallied well, continue the whiskey with caution.

Dec. 7.—Continues better—pulse 110, stronger; the effusion of lymph around the shoulder joint and upper part of the humerus has proved an effectual barrier to the progress of the mortification. Continue remedies as before.

Dec. 11.—It was now apparent that a separation of the soft parts was about to be effected just below the insertion of the deltoid; I determined to assist nature by the removal of the dead portion of the arm. With the handle of a scalpel, I carefully detached the sloughs from the sound tissues and applying the saw to the bone, removed the arm and dressed the stump with linseed poultice to assist granulation. Previous to the removal of the arm, the little fellow begged for a "sip of whiskey," which I directed to be given him. His neighbor and attendant, and on this occasion my assistant, Mr. R. Hayes, gave him, what I thought was a glass of water to wash his grog down. His face after the operation became flushed and his pulse much increased in rapidity and strength, which excited my surprise, and upon inquiring what quantity of spirit had been given him, I then discovered, that what I thought water, proved to be *whiskey*. I feared its effects, but my intelligent friend Hayes knew the boy well, and stoutly prognosticated great benefit from such a dose, "as the boy had been brought up to it from his cradle;" and he was right, in a short time the little patient fell asleep, continued in it for some hours, and awoke asking for food.

Dec. 12.—Continues improving. A portion of the bone on each side of the deltoid is quite bare. I continued the poultice dressing to the stump until January 26, 1853, when about 2½ inches of bone which had exfoliated were removed by gentle traction. I now dressed the stamp with emplastr. adhæsiv., and gave it as good a shape as possible; about the middle of March it was healed, and is now free from tenderness and can be handled without giving pain. In appearance it looks very well, considering the rude amputation necessarily performed.

The mortification in this case was doubtless owing to the depressed circulation caused by the excessive hæmorrhage; in the then enfeebled state of system, the anastomosing vessels failed to carry on the circulation after the obliteration of the humeral artery. I was very cautious about undue pressure; indeed, the roller, although loosely applied, was