

PERISCOPIC DEPARTMENT.

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Surgery.

GUN SHOT WOUND OF BRAIN.—THE BALL REMAINS IN THE BRAIN OF THE PATIENT.

By D. D. SAUNDERS, M.D.

S. D., aet. 10 years, robust and healthy. Was wounded by a pistol shot, the ball being about the size of a buck shot, on the afternoon of Friday, 12th January, 1866.

When summoned to see the patient, on entering the room found him lying upon the bed on his back insensible, head thrown back, skin cool, respiration nearly natural, pulse feeble, small and slow—65 beats per minute, face pale, pupils contracted, and blood flowing slowly from a small opening just below the right superciliary ridge and just above the ball of the right eye; this opening having been made by a pistol ball shot from a distance of five or six paces. No cerebral substance was apparent at the opening, but on examination of the white hat that he wore at the time he was shot, found white cerebral matter on that portion of the brim which projected over the right eye. I probed the wound for a distance of four inches with a female catheter, the instrument passing, without force being used, through the opening in the orbital plate and dura mater made by the ball, and ranging backwards, downwards and gradually towards the left side of the head, producing the impression on my mind that the ball had passed to the back portion of the left hemisphere of the brain. There was partial paralysis of the right arm, leg, and side of the face, without any perceptible paralysis of the tongue. No evidence of the ball being elicited by a moderate effort with the probe, it was deemed prudent by Dr. Malone, who was present, and myself to push our investigation no further. While using the probe he vomited up the dinner he had eaten a few hours before, in a partially digested state, the vomiting was repeated several times during the first six hours after the receipt of the injury. Cold water dressings were applied to the wound and an active cathartic administered, which failing to act, his bowels were thoroughly moved with three drops of croton oil. Used the catheter every ten hours for two days, after which time he voided his urine naturally.

Complete insensibility lasted for twenty-four hours; it existed in a *moderate* degree for ten days. During first five days after the injury