

or not, is not yet known to us. We did what we could to make them known to those in charge.

Even the surgical treatment was in our opinion fair subject for criticism, and the autopsy affords the justification of it.

The post-mortem examination developed the following facts:

1. Two hours were spent in the search for the ball.
2. The ball itself was encysted or enclosed in a sac of new tissue that made its presence of no importance.
3. The eleventh rib and one of the vertebra had been broken (partly shattered by the ball.)
4. The injury of bones (called compound fracture) led to formation of pus which burrowed in various directions, and being absorbed, caused blood-poisoning.
5. The ball in its entrance injured a small artery, the wall of which began to distend in a sack form, called aneurism, and the rupture of this gradually thinning sack caused death.

Other facts of interest were discovered, all tending to show that the ball had barely escaped causing instant death by just missing some of the most important blood-vessels and nerves of the body, that a search for it would have been unsuccessful, and that its removal (even had its position been accurately known) would have been a very unsafe proceeding.

It is, however, to us a source of surprise that the wound was not kept more freely open, that the pus was not permitted so free an exit as to prevent its forming an unnatural channel some twelve inches long in the groin.

Should such a case be brought to a public hospital, it is probable that a very free incision would be made, so that there should be a large open wound to heal up gradually "from the bottom." We may yet get further information as to why this was not done, but if a mistake of this kind really was made through hesitation to operate freely on so eminent a subject, it will probably be kept strictly quiet by the *fraternity* that has so long been accustomed to mutual silence when malpractice occurs by the fault of a "regular."

Dr. Bliss, who persistently denied the presence of pyæmia, invited Dr. G. F. Shrady, editor of the *New York Medical Record*, to visit Washington to inspect the post-mortem evidences, and doubtless treated him very "cleverly." So Dr. Shrady writes his "reflections" on the case, and in his effort to tell the truth and let Bliss down easily, he writes a very funny paragraph. After stating that three types of fever follow wounds, traumatic fever, septicæmia, and pyæmia, he says, "It remains to decide to which class the President's case belonged. It was evidently not a case of traumatic fever, nor could it be classed with the milder form, called simple septicæmia." Further on he remarks that the conclusion seems inevitable that the case gradually developed into chronic pyæmia, but he nevertheless credits Bliss with having an "ingenious and rational" idea of the case. Bliss also had an ingenious way of writing bulletins and of counting the pulse twenty beat below the actual rate. It was also an ingenious move on his part to have a bungling autopsy and embalming, where the proper thing to do would have been to invite an expert pathologist to per-

form the autopsy before the actual condition of the internal parts should be altered by the embalming process. The facts were that the embalming was a failure and the autopsy a botch job. Except that the symptoms preceding death indicated hemorrhage such as is said to have occurred from a rupture of the aneurism of the splenic artery, there was nothing to show that this was not produced by the immense pressure which is used in forcing the embalming solution into the blood vessels.

It was probably the rupture of the aneurism more than any other feature of the case that led Dr. Hamilton to state so positively "that surgery has no resources by which the fatal result could have been averted." Yet the autopsy showed (according to Dr. Shrady) that concentric layers of coagulated blood had formed in the aneurismal sac, or in other words, the aneurism which had formed so quickly after the injury, had begun to be closed up by the natural process which often cures them—filling up with coagula. What checked this process of cure? It was the gradually increasing pyæmic state of the blood which not only destroyed the coagulable property of the blood, but probably also caused the disintegration of a portion of the coagula which had formed before the blood became poisoned. Had the pyæmia been prevented by free drainage of the wound, and combated by remedies that have proved serviceable in neutralizing it, there would certainly have been a fair chance of saving the life of President Garfield.

Allopathy Dissected.

At the Liberal Club, on Friday evening, September 30th, a remarkable lecture was delivered by A. H. H. Dawson, Esq., taking for his text the words of Shakespeare: "*Throat Physic to the Dogs.*" After discussing the views of Shakespeare, he glanced at the opinions expressed by the most eminent literati and distinguished men in every walk of life, including some of the allopathic profession, which were much in the vein of Shakespeare's idea, regarding the doctor and his drugs as often more dangerous than the disease—the recovery of the patient beginning as soon he dismissed his doctors. He condemned the bigotry of the profession in opposing all important discoveries at first, giving the discoverers no honor till after they were dead. Their great and widespread failure was in *diagnosis* (as we see in President Garfield's case) and as usual when a perfect system of diagnosis has been presented in the science of *psychometry*, its discoverer, Dr. Buchanan, has encountered only opposition from allopathy during his life, though after his death there may be a vast amount of eulogy. The discoveries of homeopathy and eclecticism were rejected as if all knowledge was confined within the Chinese wall that bounds the horizon of regularism and all beyond was barbarism.

The illustrations of the lecturer were received with applause and merriment which gave way to a more serious and earnest feeling when he related his own experience in his family of the deadly effects of allopathic practice in the deaths of his children and the mal-