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ART. XIV.—CASE OF SEVERE CONCUSSION FROM A FALL, WITH SUBSEQUENT EXTRAVASATION ON THE SPINAL CORD. DEATH IN THIRTEEN MONTHS AFTER THE INJURY.

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On the 17th May, 1847, about 11, p.m., while engaged in matters of importance in my own house, with Dr. Arnoldi, junior, I was hastily summoned to visit Mr. W. F., of Hamilton, C. W., who had, a few minutes previously, fallen on a stone-paved yard, from a gallery about fourteen feet in height, and was then stated to be insensible. He had lain in the yard for several minutes, until his non-appearance in the house, and the sound of heavy breathing, attracted attention to the circumstance. In consequence of the contiguity of Mr. Isaacson's house, in which the accident occurred, Dr. Arnoldi accompanied me, and in the kitchen, into which he had been brought, we found Mr. F. laboring under every symptom of concussion, and surrounded by several gentlemen, occupied in endeavours to remove his clothes. We had him immediately carried into bed in an upper room, and the further process of removing his clothes was undertaken by Dr. Arnoldi, while I returned home for the necessary materials to dress any wounds which might have been caused by the fall. In the meanwhile, the symptoms of the concussion gradually diminishing, *he voluntarily moved his legs*; and, by the time that a trifling scalp wound, which was situated on the left parietal protuberance, had been dressed, his consciousness had so far recovered as to enable him to speak. At this period, he complained of no particular pain; and, after a most rigid and careful examination, not the slightest trace of fracture was any where detectable, nor was there any other lesion apparent save the scalp wound already noticed. With injunctions as to regimen, we left him for a second examination on the ensuing morning. Mr. F. was an exceedingly well developed, healthy young man, a merchant, of regular habits, and aged about 23. Having transacted his business in the city, it was his intention to have returned to Hamilton the following morning. The accident occurred while crossing a gallery, the rails of which had been carried away by a heavy fall of snow a short time previously, a circumstance of which he had been informed.

May 18. Patient seen at 6, a.m. Had slept a little during the night. The following symptoms now presented themselves: Pulse 90, full and soft; conscious; recollects nothing of the occurrence of the preceding night; general soreness of the whole body, with inability to move both inferior extremities; power over

superior perfect; respiration normal; no headache; titillation of soles of the feet causes retraction of the legs, from reflex action; tenderness of the spine, between last cervical and fifth dorsal vertebræ; scalp wound gives pain, and scalp generally tender; difficulty in moving left hand and fingers. On examining arm, found contusion on left olecranon, along the ulna, and back of wrist joint and hand. In these latter places, incipient ecchymosis. Evidence of contusion, manifesting itself by tenderness, and ecchymosis on sacrum and left ilium at the posterior third of its crest. A renewed most careful examination disclosed no evidence of fracture, either of the vertebral column or extremities. An evaporating lotion was prescribed for the head and arm; leeches to the superior dorsal vertebræ; a common cathartic powder to be taken immediately, and as the paraplegia seemed dependant on spinal extravasation, I placed him forthwith on small doses of calomel and tartar emetic, alternating the medicines every two hours, for the double purpose of obviating arterial excitement, which there was the strongest grounds for apprehending, and inducing absorption. At 10, a.m., pulse increased in rapidity, but not altered in its character; slight fever; thirst; no operation from powder; marked priapism, with great desire to make water, but inability to pass it. Paralytic condition of the legs more complete. The catheter was introduced, causing no pain or irritation, and relieved him of about 3x of water, of normal appearance. An enema was ordered, to assist the cathartic. 1, p.m., Mr. F. was seen in consultation by Dr. MacDonnell, and I will quote the symptoms now present, as extracted from that gentleman's note book:

["May 18, 1847. I was called into consultation by Dr. Hall, on the case of W. F., Esq., aged 23, of strong healthy constitution, and well developed muscular system, who had fallen from a height of about fourteen feet. He had lain in the situation in which he had fallen for about three or four minutes, when he was discovered, in a senseless condition. When Dr. Hall saw him, he presented the usual symptoms of concussion, and on examination, a slight wound was discovered on the scalp, the edges of which were readily brought together. There were also noticed on various parts of his body, slight contusions. Dr. Hall treated him whilst in this state in the usual manner, and next morning he discovered that there was some tenderness corresponding to the junction of the cervical with the dorsal vertebræ, but in no situation was there the least positive evidence, either of fracture or dislocation, although there was complete