

since forgotten; the patient dies, and although from the nature of the accident, non-professional persons may not directly attach any blame to the physician, still the latter cannot entirely divest himself of the idea that he should have attempted the operation let the result be what it may.

Another cause of postponement on the part of the junior practitioner is the fear of performing this, as well as many other operations; and this, to a certain extent, is principally attributable to the course adopted by some teachers of surgery and anatomy, who clothe their descriptions of the various surgical regions, and the operations occasionally necessitated therein, with such anatomical niceness and minuteness, the innumerable difficulties to be encountered, the vast dangers to guard against, the whole shrouded in such a cloak of apparent forebodings, accompanied with *such* shrugs of the shoulders and knowing turn of the eye, as much as to say—though they truly mean it—“Boy's don't touch them; send them here, we are the men to do these things!” Many young men are literally *scared* out of performing the most trivial operations, by the recollection of what they have heard and seen in the lecture room. Well do I remember listening to the teachings of some most distinguished surgeons and anatomists, and with all eyes and ears, I was amazed at their erudition, astounded at their boldness, if not recklessness in undertaking some of those grand operations—which have shed such a bright lustre on their names, and made them the Napoleons of the Surgical World—the various steps of which they detailed with such *gusto*, led me almost to think that there were but few, if indeed any, who could, or had a right to perform such operations except themselves; and it is more particularly for this reason, that some of the surgeons of all large cities enjoy such a large country consultation and practice, as the young physician either unwilling or unable to perform any operation, sends the subjects to the city, where they are always well received, and, in some instances their expenses are not only paid, but a bonus is thrown in to secure the case.

On another occasion I will make a few practical remarks upon the operation of Tracheotomy, and show that it is easily performed, far from dangerous, and, in the great majority of cases, followed with successful results.

Montreal, 27½ Little St. James Street,

21st May, 1860.

ART. XXXIII.—*Mechanical Obstruction of the Intestines, Volvulus of the flexure of the Colon, gastrotomy, death.* BY P. O. TESSIER, M.D.

Mrs. C. G. a young woman of good constitution, took sick on the 8th of last month. I was sent for in the afternoon, and I found her with a slight fever, a hot but not very dry skin, a quick pulse, headache, a glossy and slightly furred tongue, with an irritable stomach, and colicky pains around the navel; her bowels had been moved the previous evening. She blamed getting her feet wet for all this difficulty. I prescribed chloride of mercury and compound ipecacuanha powder for the evening, to be followed by some evacuant medicine in the morning.