

28th.—Deep-seated abscess in calf detected, and opened, wound improving, though there were much fever and other disturbance.

Dec. 1.—The wounds were all healed, and he could bear some weight on the heel. A piece of cork was fitted to fill up the space in the shoe, and on the 29th he left the hospital quite well, and able to walk with only a slight halt.

The treatment throughout, in this case, was that which is ordinarily employed in cases of erysipelas after operations in hospitals.

CASE 2.—Thos. B.—, aged twenty-nine, pitman, admitted into the Newcastle Infirmary, August 10, 1848, with disease of the left foot, principally affecting the os calcis, which can be felt through two fistulous ulcers. The disease commenced two years and a half ago, with inflammation and abscess. He was a patient in the hospital some months ago, and underwent an operation for the partial removal of the bone, which proved of little use. The general health is not materially affected.

On the 15th the bone was exposed by suitable incisions, and diseased portions were removed in the ordinary manner.

In about a fortnight the wound was nearly healed, when inflammation took place, and an abscess formed on the outer ankle. He became feverish and disordered, and erysipelas (which prevailed in the hospital) extended to the knee.

Sept. 8th.—A large abscess on the top of the foot was opened.

12th.—Symptoms had much subsided; the wound was nearly closed, but the os calcis could be distinctly felt with the probe.

Oct. 17th.—The health being greatly improved, the complete excision of the diseased bone was determined on. The operation was performed in the same manner as in the first case, except that no integument was removed. After the operation, slight sloughing of the integuments took place; but during October and November the wound nearly closed, leaving a small opening at the heel, from which there was a slight discharge. In a few weeks this entirely healed.

Feb. 10th.—He left the hospital, the heel being quite sound. A piece of cork filled up the vacancy in the shoe, and he walked freely about on crutches.

CASE 3.—John R.—, aged sixteen, a country lad, of delicate and scrofulous appearance, admitted into the Newcastle Infirmary, Nov. 30, 1848, with disease of the foot, principally affecting the os calcis, which is greatly enlarged and carious. One or two sinuses at the apex of the heel penetrate deep into the bone; ankle-joint moveable without much pain. The disease began eighteen weeks ago from excoriation of the heel, occasioned by the friction of his shoe.

On December 5th, excision of the os calcis was performed, and diseased portions of the cuneiform bones were sawn off. The posterior tibial artery bled freely, but was secured.

He went on well till Jan. 7th, when he was seized with excessive pain in the hip, &c.; the wound became less healthy.

June 15th.—He left the hospital, the wound being nearly healed, and the hips greatly easier, but so stiff from long-continued disease that they would scarcely admit of any motion whatever. The constitutional treatment was varied and adapted to the symptoms and constitution of the patient. He passed some months in the workhouse at Hexham, his health improving; but although he got about on crutches, the hips remained extremely stiff. The final result of the operation was successful."