

ART. XIX.—*Notes of a few Surgical Cases.* By J. A. GRANT, M. D.,  
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*Case I.—Scirrhus of the mammary gland, operation and rapid recovery.*

Mrs. S——, aged 40 years, admitted into the General Protestant Hospital, 28th Nov., 1859, of short stature, moderate conformation, pale complexion, married, and the mother of eleven children, the last two being twins, habits intemperate, states that four years ago, whilst interposing in a quarrel, she received a blow with considerable violence upon her right breast. After the lapse of a short time, a hard lump formed to the right of the nipple. Attacks of lancinating pain, gradually increasing in frequency and severity came on, consequent upon which she suffered much from broken rest, loss of appetite, and depression of spirits. At first the subcutaneous nodule was of very moderate dimensions, but by degrees it gradually enlarged, until the entire gland together with a great portion of the surrounding integument became implicated, also several of the axillary absorbent glands participated in the morbid change. About two months previous to entering hospital, a fissure formed at the lower part of tumour, from which there frequently exuded a thin, irritating discharge of a quasi-sanious character, and on one or two occasions, a considerable quantity of blood was lost. As Mrs. S. entered the hospital for the express purpose of undergoing an operation in order to relieve her suffering, it was determined in consultation with Dr. Hill, that the entire breast should be extirpated, which was performed in the usual way, attended by very moderate hæmorrhage, chloroform having been previously administered. The diseased axillary glands were also removed, and the integuments brought together by the requisite number of sutures, dressed with wet lint, and the patient quietly placed in bed. 5th Dec. The sutures were principally removed, and the greater portion of the wound had united by the first intention. 21st Dec. The ligatures in connection with two small branches of the superior thoracic came away. 26th Dec. The wound had almost entirely healed, and the patient left the hospital, much improved in vigor of body, and with a most decidedly beneficial alteration marked in her countenance. 24th Feb. I have been informed that she now enjoys good health, never having suffered since the date of excision from any of the former pain, but on the contrary, in possession of a vigorous digestion, and actively engaged in the performance of her household duties. The gland in this case formed a projecting tumour of a somewhat quadrangular shape, possessed of considerable firmness, with the integument hard and tense inferiorly, but more relaxed and pliable superiorly. Diameter of tumour greatest at the base, and weight 14 ounces. The retraction of the nipple, which took place some time after the appearance of the cancerous nodule, was however, highly characteristic. Being called upon six months previous to Mrs. S. entering the hospital, I was then forcibly impressed with the thin and emaciated condition of the twins, which appeared to have derived but scanty nourishment from the impoverished blood of the mother. One only survived 24 hours, and the other eked out a miserable existence, and departed