

I have just made out another important point in this case. By introducing my finger through the incision which has been made to liberate the pus, I can pass it up and about the capsule of the joint which I find to be unruptured. This confirms our exclusion of the hip-joint from disease.

We now inject the cavity with carbolized water, and having thoroughly washed it out, fill it with Peruvian balsam. We elevate the limb, so that the disinfecting balsam may come freely in contact with all parts internally. We will stuff in some oakum, cover the part with oil silk, and over this apply a roller bandage. Extension must be made as we have already suggested. The patient should have a pair of crutches, so that he can get out into the open air and sunlight. He should have a sustaining diet.—*Dr. Sayre in Virg. Med. Mon.*

TREATMENT OF SEVERE ARTERIAL HÆMORRHAGE FROM PUNCTURED WOUNDS OF THROAT AND NECK.

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The paper discusses the treatment to be adopted in cases of severe arterial bleeding, that have resisted all simple means, and in which operative measures become necessary. The class of cases include punctured wounds about the angle of the jaw and through the mouth, hæmorrhage from the tonsils, or from cancer of the tongue or mouth, and secondary hæmorrhage after surgical operations, &c. The treatment usually adopted in these cases has been a ligature upon the common carotid. Upon analysis of a considerable number of cases, it is found that, after this method of treatment, rather more than half the patients die. The causes of these deaths are approximately as follows:—Rather more than 30 per cent. from brain symptoms; rather more than thirty per cent. from recurrence of the bleeding; and 30 per cent. from other causes. It thus appears that one-third of these deaths are directly due to ligature of the carotid, and that in another third the operation had proved useless for arresting the bleeding. The brain symptoms

appear to result from the already anæmic brain having a considerable portion of its blood-supply suddenly cut off, hæmorrhage occurring from the original wound (after ligature of the common trunk) must either be due to the blood coming as a regurgitant stream brought down the internal carotid, or by blood being brought through the fine anastomoses of the terminal branches. Experiments and facts narrated in the paper show that in a certain number of instances the bleeding is due to a regurgitant stream through the internal carotid, or to blood brought to the proximal end of the wounded vessel by the inferior thyroid. A table accompanying the paper shows how the bleeding vessel, wounded in the situation described, has most commonly proved to be the external carotid, or one of its branches, a wound of the internal carotid being of rare occurrence. Having discussed the cause of the high mortality following ligature of the common carotid, ligature of the external carotid, about half an inch from the bifurcation, is recommended as likely to prove a safer and more efficient method of controlling the bleeding. The grave danger of cutting off the blood supply to the brain is avoided by this operation, while at the same time the chance of recurrent hæmorrhage is diminished in proportion to the number of instances in which it occurs as a regurgitant stream. The objections raised to the operation are: (1) the fear of secondary hæmorrhage from the proximity of large branches; (2) that, should the wounded vessel prove to be the internal carotid, a ligature upon the external would be a useless operation. The first objection is answered by reference to cases narrated by M. Guyon, showing the rare occurrence of secondary hæmorrhage from the external carotid. The second, by the comparatively few instances in which the wounded vessel has proved to be the internal carotid. Moreover, should the mistake occur it is not beyond remedy, for a ligature might still be placed upon the common trunk at its bifurcation; on the other hand no remedy can be found for a patient dying in a comatose condition caused by obstructing the internal carotid on account of a wound of the external carotid or one of its branches.—Mr. Holmes only recalled one case