

up into the mouth, I now thrust in two fingers, seized hold of some substance, and with a good pull drew away a large piece of beef that had become firmly impacted in the rima glottidis. At once the trouble was at an end, the old fellow looked rather surprised, if not foolish, at the figure he was cutting, and staring at the laughing crowd wondered what the trouble was, and why he was not eating his dinner; the edges of the divided integuments were brought together by two sutures carried through a large cambric needle, and a compress and bandage completed the dressing.

The next morning Davis returned to his quarters, and was quite well in a few days. When my bill was presented to the County Poor Authorities, I was allowed five dollars (because I had not been employed by them) for saving the poor creature's life, with the gentle hint that had I allowed him to die, they might have had no objection in paying the whole amount charged—fifty dollars—as I would have done myself and my “fellow citizens” a service, as tax-payers in ridding the County of a man who had been a burden upon it for over thirty years! The poor old fellow had seen hard service in Spain; was wounded three times at the battle of Albuera, a ball passed through the shoulder producing partial paralysis of the right upper extremity, and during the same action he lost the sight of one eye: a few years after he became deaf, and to finish the chapter of his infirmities, in 1854 I removed one of his testicles for cancerous tubercle, and in 1857 a piece of tough beef came near putting an end to his precarious existence.

The novelty of the accident, the promptitude of the operation and its unexpected success, together with the well-known name, if not history, of the old “Britisher,” invested the case with more than usual interest, and the Editors of the three Plattsburgh papers called upon me for a few notes, which were published under the head of “local items.” A couple of weeks after a copy of the *Albany Argus* was placed in my hands, with the notice that a gentleman dining at the Stanwix Hall in that city fell back in his chair, to all appearance dead; the medical man of the house was immediately summoned; he came, examined the case, diagnosed that something had lodged in the windpipe, and that he should have to go to his surgery for the necessary instruments. This he did, and returned with his armamentarium in about twenty minutes, when he found the man stone dead, and stretched out upon a table in a private room. An examination showed that a piece of beef had become impacted in the glottis, closing it and inducing almost, if not truly, instantaneous death.

Another case in illustration of the criminality in not being prepared to meet emergencies. Dr. Allen of Rockville, Indiana, was sent for to go a distance of four miles in the country to see a young child, without being apprized of the nature of the ailment; on his arrival he found out that tracheotomy was required, he rode back home for his instruments, and before his return, the child had expired!—(Gross, *Foreign Bodies*, &c., p. 208.)

When the danger in any case is so great and impending, it is not only folly, but culpable negligence on the part of the medical man to wait till he has procured all his instruments, and perchance, consulted some book to renew his acquaintance with anatomical facts and boundaries long since studied, and as long