

## Original Communications.

*Case of fractured ribs, Emphysema and Pneumothorax, Paracentesis Thoracis—recovery.* By G. L. MACKELCAN, M.D., Hamilton, Ont.

Nov. 20th, 1872, was called to see H. C., aged 61, who had been run over by a waggon an hour before. Found fracture of 5th, 6th and 7th ribs at the angles on the left side, emphysema of the cellular tissue opposite. The seat of fracture well marked, the skin being raised up about three inches, and crepitation well marked. Pulse slow and irregular, respiration very painful. Applied broad bandage round the chest and gave an opiate.

24th. Emphysema has extended up over the chest and neck as far as the occiput. The left chest nearly filled with air. Emphysema has subsided.

Dec. 1st. Complete pneumothorax of left side. Increased resonance on percussion; no respiratory murmur audible. Egophony and metallic tinkling well marked. Gradually, the left chest filled with fluid to a point two inches above the nipple. Dyspnoea became very great. Respirations 40 per minute. Cannot lie down, and has very severe attacks of dyspnoea, generally in the evening.

Dec. 23rd. Decided to perform paracentesis thoracis as the old man was sinking, and there seemed to be no prospect of his recovery. Having no proper aspirator, improvised one from a common enema apparatus by attaching an extra piece of tubing to the lower end. There being air in the chest already it was not used for the purpose of excluding air, but of pumping out both fluid and air. Assisted by Dr. Mackintosh proceeded to tap with a fine trocar and canula. Withdrew the canula and slipped the end of the tubing over the canula and slowly drew off more than two quarts of sanguineous serum and a quantity of air, completely emptying the chest so that the respiratory murmur could be heard, though feebly, all over the left side. The dullness on percussion, also, entirely disappeared, and the dyspnoea was entirely relieved. The fluid accumulated again to a small extent for about a month, (during which time he suffered a good deal of dyspnoea), and gradually disappeared under a course of diaphoretics and diuretics.

Feb. 14th. The old man has entirely recovered. Respiratory murmur is good all over the left chest, and he is now able to walk two or three miles without any inconvenience.

*Address to the graduates in Medicine*, delivered at the Second Annual Convocation, of the Medical Faculty of the University Bishop's College, April 3rd, 1873. By ROBERT T. GODFREY, A.M., M.D., Professor of Surgery.

MR. CHANCELLOR, MY LORD, GENTLEMEN GRADUATES,

It is my privilege to address you a few words of congratulation and advice on this occasion.

The pleasure of congratulating you on the successful examinations you have just passed, is grateful to me: particularly so, when you, by your application and assiduity, your deportment and attention in the lecture room, as well as on all other occasions, have gained for yourselves the respect and esteem of every Professor in the College.

We are about to separate: a feeling of regret steals over me at the thought of losing the friendly smile and pleasant daily greeting which have so long been exchanged between us, and helped to cheer and excite your teachers in their exertions on your behalf.

Although the mental labor for lectures of an hour's duration for six months requires much time and self-denial, yet, when the results have been so satisfactory to us, we consider ourselves amply rewarded for the sacrifice.

You, gentlemen, know that listening to seven or eight lectures daily, produces an amount of nervous prostration which none but the experienced can understand.

It has grieved me, towards the close of the session, to notice stealing over your features the pallor consequent on your mental exertions, and close application to your studies. I trust that after a period of repose, you will all soon regain your usual health and strength.

Before bidding you farewell I shall say a few words to you on your future duties and new relations to your fellow men.

You, gentlemen, have devoted the short period of four years to the study of a profession which, for convenience of teaching and reference, has been divided into numerous branches; to perfect you in any one of them it would take the whole of that period. But as our lives are short, you will be required to make the best use of every spare moment that is left you to prosecute your studies. You are now aided by works on the different branches of your profession, written by men who would have been a credit to any age. You must remember that all the books which have ever been written cannot