

are, in fact, the most complicated of wounds, combining, as they do, contusion, attrition, and laceration to a high degree, occasioning all kinds of fractures, introducing extraneous matter into the body, and often giving rise to such complications as hæmorrhage, inflammation, septicæmia, erysipelas, and even gangrene. These injuries are produced by all sorts of missiles—such as small shot, bullets, grape or canister, chain or bar shot, shells, slugs, and even the powder itself, as well as fragments of wood, stone, clothing, buttons, portions of another person's body, &c.,—but as the cases to which I wish to draw your attention to-night were all produced by the ordinary cylindro-conoidal ball of common use, I will refer principally to wounds inflicted by such means. We do not now see, since the introduction of this modern form of bullet, the wonderful, yes, extraordinary, courses taken which were sometimes seen in injuries caused by the old spherical ball, such, for instance, as that spoken of by Heunen, who relates the case of a man in whom the ball, which struck the *Pomum Adami*, was found lying in the orifice of its entrance, having gone completely around the neck. The works on military surgery, written during the last century, abound in examples of just as strange deviations, but at present such instances are exceedingly rare, for it is now usual to find the missile traverse the body in the same line in which it entered, unless deflected by some of the heavier osseous structures; in fact, the conical ball is not influenced by the tissues through which it passes, and, if it has not passed entirely through, is generally found immediately under the skin at a point directly opposite to that in which it entered, or rather in the line in which it was travelling when it struck the body, and this fact is useful, from a clinical standpoint, as a guide to locating the bullet. Sometimes the place where the ball lies is plainly enough indicated by a slight reddish discoloration; generally, however, it can only be discovered by passing the hand carefully over the skin, when a hard substance will reveal its presence. (F. Hamilton.) The ball, having been grasped by the thumb and first finger of the operator, or by an assistant, is best removed by a free incision. If the above precaution is not attended to, the bullet may slip back into the track of the wound, or to