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Severe Incised Wound of Liver: Recovery. By HAMNET HILL,
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William Perkins, aged fifteen, on the 4th July, 1868, whilst working in one of the large saw-mills at the Chaudière Falls, on the Ottawa River, was overbalanced by the accidental thrust of a truck cart, and thrown right side forward on to a circular butting saw of about sixteen inches diameter and making 1500 révolutions per minute. His right arm was instantaneously cut off about two inches above the elbow. One of the mill hands seeing the boy's danger, seized hold of him while in the act of falling, in the vain endeavour to save him, but not before the saw had inflicted a frightful wound in the lower part of the right side of the chest, of about nine inches in length, cutting completely through the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th ribs, laying open the cavity of the pleura (without, however, wounding the lung), thence finding its way through the diaphragm into the cavity of the abdomen, and finally wounding the convex surface of the liver to the extent of about four inches superficially, and to the depth of about one inch at the deepest part, as measured on the periphery of the saw; the escape from instant death was perfectly miraculous, as the cicatrix remaining on the skin shows that the saw went within half an inch of the median line posteriorly, on the spine, and to within about two and a half inches of the median line on the sternum anteriorly. I was in attendance on the boy about thirty minutes after receipt of the injury and found him as described. Air was rushing in and out of the cavity of the pleura, during each attempt at respiration, through the wound in the side, which was gaping about three inches wide at its middle and was partially dammed or plugged up as it were by the bright and glistening substance of the liver, exhibiting the incision in its surface. There had been a large amount of hæmorrhage, as seen by the saturation of the clothing, and by the exsanguined aspect of