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CLINICAL NOTES ON SOME INJURIES TO THE SHOULDER JOINT.

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Injuries to the structures in and about the shoulder joint possess peculiar attractions on account of the difficulties of making an accurate diagnosis and because of the grave disabilities which may supervene from improper treatment. The difficulties in diagnosis to me have seemed greater in the slighter forms of injury. When a great wound has been inflicted easier access is permitted to the parts and a correct conclusion may be arrived at; but when a slight fall or a trivial blow is followed by swelling and pain, the parts are further removed from a thorough and satisfactory examination. *The prominent position of the articulation and the great range of motion of the joint lead one to forget the thickness of the natural muscular and fascial coverings, and the swelling caused by the traumatism buries the osseous framework still deeper and obscures more effectually a slight separation or displacement of the structures.*

The relation of a few cases which it has been my fortune to meet with in the last year or two may serve to illustrate these points and to show the utility or futility of certain modes of treatment.

Mr. B., aged about seventy, whom I saw with Dr. Chambers, was a stout, florid man, had had an epileptic fit in bed. When he recovered consciousness he complained of soreness and pain in the left