

eight years, (born of healthy and robust parents, the mother, however, somewhat of a lymphatic temperament), presented soon after birth a small swelling on the neck. I could obtain no precise account of its mode of origin. On inquiring for a history, I ascertained that in gestation of this child the mother suffered from extreme mental depression and anxiety, took sick soon after its birth, and did not recover for six weeks, during which period, the child did not receive the attention requisite. She herself nursed the infant during her illness. Was always a more delicate, nervous, and fretful child than the others. First discovered the tumour when the infant was about three months old. She consulted various practitioners at different times, each of whom gave a version of the case different from that of the others, and suggested for its cure, the adoption of a plan peculiar to himself. It would be profitless to enumerate them, as the plans, when followed, turned out to be quite ineffectual, casting in their train more or less doubt on the correctness of the accompanying opinions. Two of them, however, are so peculiar, I cannot forbear selecting them for a passing notice. In the one, codfish-skins moistened constantly in a strong solution of chloride of sodium, were kept constantly applied for a period of six weeks, at the expiration of which time the tumor broke and discharged, but shortly afterwards it returned, the breach having quickly cicatrized. The other adviser, who had frequently seen the sure and certain means proved, recommended the no less revolting and superstitious relic of the darker ages than the application of the hand of a dead person to the tumour. How long she had to wait for so grim and appalling an opportunity, I am not prepared to say. Thus several years were passed away in fruitless endeavors to remove it, by means more congenial than those which art takes up as a last resource. But one spoke of an operation—which, however, he feared, could not be easily accomplished from the close attachment of the tumour to the “chords of the neck.”

It is difficult to trace the progress of the tumor, commencing at the period formerly named, it was found to be half an inch in diameter, when the child was nine months old, and to have acquired double this size, when two years old. It was then moveable apparently superficial covered by healthy undischored skin, and not causing pain. This also was the time when it was made to inflame and ulcerate. Having recovered from these severe morbid actions, the solutions in its continuity were healed, and again as a tumor it slowly and gradually enlarged, projected and became more diffused, its border becoming less clearly defined, and at the time I saw it could only be moved with considerable difficulty, seeming to have a deep root in and strong adhesions to the parts beneath. It, however, preserved its original characters as they have been stated above.

The tumor I excised, on the 28th ult., assisted by my brother Dr. E.