

the bowel tending to the expulsion of the matters." Chelins states also,* "that effusion of feculent matter happens more easily in the small than the large intestines easier, in *torn* than in cut wounds."

No doubt whatever is entertained by Surgeons and surgical writers in general, that laceration of the intestines not unfrequently occurs, without external injury, or penetration of the abdominal parietes, and heals spontaneously and naturally, without the fact having been made apparent, either during life, or after the decease of the injured person; as the process of reparation, where it occurs, is exceedingly rapid. The instant inflammation sets in, coagulable lymph is deposited, which becomes speedily organized, as appears by "cutting into adhesive matter within twenty-four hours after it has been deposited, † when small bloody spots may be seen, which mark the future situation of the vessels which nourish it."

Injuries of the intestines, whether with or without penetration, often defy a correct diagnosis, since apparently trifling cases of both kinds ‡ often terminate suddenly and fatally; and, on the other hand, the most extensive and hideous lacerations, with complete division of the intestines, § as often recover, and do well.

It will not, I trust, be considered an uncalled for digression from the medical history of this case, to state that throughout a most exciting and tedious trial of sixteen days duration, Mr. Solicitor-General Ross conducted the prosecution with a judgment, zeal, ability and perseverance, against unusual odds,|| worthy of better results at the hands of Mr. Justice Duval and the Jury.

Quebec, January, 1856.

(To be continued.)

*Chelister's Surgery, translated by South, American Edition, vol. 1, page 518.

†Cooper & Green's Manual of Surgery, p. 12.

‡Beck's Medical Jurisprudence, 7th Edition, page 727, Foderé mentions a case where instant death was caused by a small prick, in the small intestines, inflicted by the point of a butcher's knife, though there was neither a sufficient effusion of blood to account for such a result by its effects on the vascular system, nor a sufficient length of time for inflammation and its consequences to arise.

§Edin. Med. and Sur. Journal, vol. 12, 1816, "Carlton's case of Extensive Wound of the Abdomen, with complete division of the Ileum, &c."

||During the greater part of the trial, the Solicitor-General stood alone against four counsellors for the defence, among whom were some of the most distinguished members of the Quebec Bar.