

CASE 2.—January, 1869. J. S., age 22, while chopping, the axe glanced, cut through the boot, and took a slice off the metatarso-phalangeal articulation of great toe of right foot. The axe entered about an inch from the articulation on the phalangeal side and cut backwards through the joint, raising a flap two inches in length and an inch and a half wide. A paring of bone a quarter of an inch in thickness was attached to the flap. The wound was not dressed, except with temporary bandages, until twelve hours after the accident. The flap was then withered, much serrated at the edges, and possessed little sensation; it fell far short of coaptation. There had been considerable bleeding.

In dressing this wound eight silver sutures were put in, and owing to the contraction of the flap the wound now presented the appearance of nine elliptical gaps. No adhesive straps were employed. A piece of very thin old cotton folded and saturated with spirits of camphor was applied to the wound, and over this another cloth wet with water, the latter to be changed as often as necessary to keep up slight moisture, the spirits of camphor to be applied three times a day.

On the fourth day the flap had lost its contracted appearance; inflammation slight; union had taken place by first intention.

The sutures were removed on the eighth day without in the least disturbing the union, a feat not generally accomplished when wire sutures are used.

If pus had formed in either of the above cases with the consequent result of slow granulations, no doubt the utility of the finger in case 1. would have been impaired, and in case 2. painful articular inflammation would have been the result.

CASE 3.—This is a case similar to the former (No. 2.) The accident occurred on March, 4th 1869, the subject being an active man, middle age, married. The wound in this case was behind the joint on the inner side of the left foot. Comminuted fragments of the bone adhered to the flap, and a splinter of bone extended forward to the joint. None of these were removed.

The treatment was similar in all respects to that adopted in case No. 2, only that the lotion used in the after dressing was composed of equal parts of spirits of Camphor and water.

The case progressed very favorably, no pus having formed during the whole process of healing. In fifteen days the wound was quite healed, some slight tenderness only remaining, and this was probably due to the fracture extending into the joint.

A circumstance worthy of note in this case is that the patient after the