

injunctions to avoid excitement and exposures. 15th. I learn, on inquiry, that Gage has been in the street every day except Sunday, during my absence; his desire to be out and to go home to Lebanon has been uncontrollable by his friends, and he has been making arrangements to that effect; yesterday he walked half a mile, and purchased some small articles at the store; the atmosphere was cold and damp, the ground wet, and he went without an overcoat, and with thin boots; he got wet feet and a chill; I find him in bed, depressed and very irritable; hot and dry skin; thirst; tongue coated; pulse 110; lancinating pain in the left side of the head and face; rigors, and bowels constipated. Ordered cold to the head and face, and a black dose to be repeated in six hours, if it does not operate. He has had spiculæ of bone pass into the fauces, which he expelled from the mouth within a few days. 16th. No better; cathartic has operated freely; pulse 120; skin hot and dry; thirst and pain remain the same; has been very restless during the night; venesection f3xvj. Ordered calomel. gr. x. and ipecac. gr. ij. followed in four hours by castor oil. Eight p. m., same day. Purged freely; pulse less frequent; pain in the head moderated; skin moist. R. Antim. et potassa tart., gr. iij; syr. simplex, f3vj; dose a dessert spoonful every four hours. 17th. Improving; expresses himself as feeling better in every respect: has no pain in the head. 18th. Is walking about the house again; says he feels no pain in the head, and appears to be in a way of recovering if he can be controlled.

*Remarks*—The leading feature of this case, is its improbability. A physician who holds in his hand a crow-bar, three feet and a half long, and more than thirteen pounds in weight, will not very readily believe that it has been driven with a crash through the brain of a man who is still able to walk off, talking with composure and equanimity of the hole in his head. This is the sort of accident that happens in the pantomime in the theatre, but not elsewhere. Yet there is every reason for supposing it in this case literally true. Being at first wholly sceptical, I have been personally convinced; and this has been the experience of many medical gentlemen who, having first heard of the circumstances, have had a

subsequent opportunity to examine the evidence.

This evidence is comprised in the testimony of individuals, and in the anatomical and physiological character of the lesion itself.

The above accounts from different individuals, concur in assigning to the accident a common cause. They are selected as the most complete among about a dozen of similar documents forwarded to me by Dr. Harlow, who was kind enough to procure them at my request; and which bear the signature of many respectable persons in and about the town of Cavendish, and all corroborative of the circumstances as here detailed. The accident occurred in open day, in a quarry in which a considerable number of men were at work, many of whom were witnesses of it, and all of whom were attracted by it. Suffice it to say, that in a thickly populated country neighbourhood, to which all the facts were matter of daily discussion at the time of their occurrence, there is no difference of belief, nor has there been at any time doubt that the iron was actually driven through the brain. A considerable number of medical gentlemen also visited the case at various times to satisfy their incredulity.

Assuming the point that the wound was the result of a missile projected from below upwards, it may be asked whether the wound might not have been made by a stone, while the bar was at the same moment thrown into the air. It may be replied in answer, that the rock was not split, nor, as far as could be learned, disintegrated. Besides, an angular bit of stone would have been likely to have produced quite as much laceration as the bar of iron; and it is in fact possible that the tapering point of the latter divided and repelled the soft parts, especially the brain, in a way that enabled the smooth surface of the iron to glide through with less injury. And assuming the only possible hypothesis, that the round bar followed exactly the direction of its axis, the missile may be considered as a sphere of one and a quarter inches diameter, preceded by a conical and polished wedge.

The patient visited Boston in January, 1850, and remained some time under my observation, during which he was presented at a meeting of the Boston So-