

fibrinous matter. Several smaller portions of feculent matter were found within and around the appendix, and that process presented a *perforation*, evidently resulting from ulceration, which readily allowed the passage of the little finger. This solution of continuity existed at about three quarters of an inch from the cæcum. The latter intestine was highly congested, its lining mucous membrane much thickened and of the color of coffee-grounds. The ileo-cæcal valve was perfect, but the opening of the cæcum into the appendix evidently defective. The intestines generally contained but little feculent matter, and the remaining abdominal viscera presented no evident alteration, though they were thickly coated with the fibrinous exudation which was pervading the whole cavity.—*Lancet*.

SURGERY.

A case of Gunshot wound.—Recovery. Croton, King & Queen, Sept. 10th, 1851. Dr. Gooch.—Dear Sir—I send you a short statement of a case which occurred in this neighborhood last winter. On the 27th December, 1850, Mr. Boulware Dyke and Mr. William Ball set out to cross the river at Mantapike, to shoot duck in the marsh on the opposite side of the river. When they reached the wharf, the tide had left the boat a little. Mr. Ball taking the two guns, and putting them in the head of the boat, with the breech downwards, and the muzzles projecting over the gunwales of the boat—Mr. Dyke just at this moment taking hold of the chain which was attached to the head of the boat for the purpose of pushing it into the water, the large ducking gun, charged with large duck-shot, went off. The whole contents of the gun and fragments of clothes were driven into the abdomen of Mr. Dyke, entering the abdomen in front of the anterior superior spinous process of the ilium, just where the great obliquus externus abdominis and internus muscle envelope by their aponeuroses the rectus abdominis,—penetrating through the external muscles, leaving bare the fibres of the rectus abdominis, the contents of the gun taking a course upwards and outward until they reached the edge of the last false rib following the course of the rib, and burrowing deep in the muscles of the back. Upon the happening of the accident, I was

sent for in great haste—and as I live in the immediate neighborhood, I saw him in an hour after the accident. When I arrived I found the shock had been an overwhelming one to the system, he having been unconscious of having received an injury until his clothes were found to be on fire. I found him cold and without pulse at the wrist. I examined the wound and without delay sent a messenger to King William for my son, Dr. John S. Lewis and Dr. Ro. H. Tebbs, to assist and advise what was best to be done. In the mean time I stimulated Dyke to bring about reaction, which was most happily effected before they reached Mantapike, which was about three hours after the accident, they living a short distance across the river.

On consultation we decided to take out the shot, if possible, which we succeeded in doing most happily, by making an incision in the back, in front of the second and third dorsal vertebræ. There were upwards of one hundred and fifty large duck shot with the wadding of the gun and fragments of clothes, taken from the wound. After dressing the wound, we left him for the night, with directions for him to be kept as quiet as possible, and administered an anodyne. On the 28th I found him free from excitement, having slept well through the night; had his bowels moved with a saline purgative, and directed him to be kept on a low diet, to avoid active inflammation. From day to day the case went on favorably. No unfavorable symptoms presenting themselves, in due time suppuration took place, and as was to be expected, a considerable slough in the back, and Dyke insisted that he breathed through the wound. At this time the wound in the back was large and deep, showing the edge of the rib very distinctly, and the wound in the abdomen leaving the edge of the rectus muscle, and also the peritoneum *in situ*. After six or eight days from the occurrence of the accident, I allowed him a little wine and a nutritious diet. A healthy suppuration and granulation went on, and in three weeks the cavities of the wound were filling up and healing in the most favorable manner. He continued to do well, and in two months from the time of the accident he rode on horseback to Richmond, and is now well. The above statement I have taken from notes made at the time when attending Dyke. If you think the facts stated will be of interest,