

## PART I

### INJURIES OF THE ABDOMEN

#### CONTUSIONS

For purposes of clearness it will be best to divide these injuries into two groups :—

A. *Contusions without Rupture of the Abdominal Contents.*

B. *Contusions in which there is Evidence of Internal Injury.*

A. These contusions are of varying degrees of gravity. According to the severity of the injury, the region of the abdomen struck, the physical condition of the individual, his preparedness for the blow, the time which has elapsed since the last meal, etc. Any contusion of the abdomen may be serious, and it must be remembered that a patient without symptoms of importance, when seen soon after an injury, may be suffering from a rupture of the intestine or other internal organ, which will prove fatal if not recognised in time. Such cases have been only too frequent in the history of surgery, and whenever the cause of the injury has been "possibly" sufficient to produce internal damage, however slight, the case should be taken under observation and carefully watched. There may be no bruising of the skin and yet there may be a rupture of the intestine. In these days, when football is so popular, it is hardly necessary to say that a contusion of the abdomen is frequently followed by severe pain, shock and vomiting, yet the effects pass off in a short time. There are not many cases recorded in which the shock of a contusion without internal injury has proved fatal, but at least one is known about which there can be no doubt. On the other hand, the absence of an unusual amount of initial shock has been frequently observed when an injury has been inflicted which has caused death in a few hours.

The amount of extravasation of blood following a contusion of this part of the body varies much, according to the nature of