

HOSPITAL REPORT DEPARTMENT.

MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Case of Fibro-plastic tumor on the hand. Amputation of fore-arm. Under the care of DR. REDDY. Reported by Mr. Herbert Sayer Tew.

Edward Walder, aged 48, a native of Ireland, was admitted into the Montreal General Hospital, on the 27th July, 1862, in order to place himself under treatment for a large tumor which had been growing for some time from the back of his hand.

His family history is good; his countenance has a healthy appearance; good ruddy color, and not the look of a person suffering from malignant disease.

He states that the present affection commenced about eight years ago, in the form of a small red hard swelling about the size of a pea, on the dorsal aspect of the thumb, unattended with pain, except on pressure.

The tumor gradually increasing in size, he was sent by a medical man in Montreal about a year ago to the Montreal General Hospital. At that time the tumor was circular in outline presenting a sharp apex; the surrounding skin was slightly elevated, and seemingly on the side of the tumor a second small elevation was observed, which soon grew to a considerable size.

While in Hospital various plans of treatment were pursued, without diminishing its bulk, and on being explored about half a pint of a brownish-white colored fluid exuded. The wound soon healed, leaving the tumor about the same as on admission.

He now left the hospital, and felt no apprehension till about five months ago, when the tumor began suddenly to increase, and he sought readmission on account of sudden hemorrhage from the surface of the tumor while working. He called on one of the surgeons of the 47th regiment, who stopped the bleeding. Since last year the tumor has altered much in shape and size. It is about the size of an ordinary cocoa-nut, of an irregular nodulated shape, and having a dusky red mottled color, occupying the dorsal aspect of the hand, with the exception of the ring and little finger; it is quite moveable, soft to the touch, and on the upper and dorsal aspect, there is a slough about the size of an English shilling. When the hemorrhage took place, he suffered pain, especially when pressed or much moved. There are no glands enlarged in the axilla. A consultation being called, amputation was deemed necessary. Dr. Reddy, assisted by Dr. Fraser and Dr. R. P. Howard, performed the circular operation, about three inches above the carpus; few vessels required ligature. To day, August 11th, the stump is progressing most favorably. There has not been any unfavorable symptoms from the beginning. Dr. Reddy made a microscopical examination of the contents of the tumor before operating, and exhibited drawings of the cells which he discovered. Some were oval, oat shaped, containing a well marked nucleus (dot like); others had nucleoli and appeared more elongated, and several seemed joined one after another; these were described as presenting a pale color.

The tumor was of the soft variety, and when on being divided after removal, had the appearance of encephaloid matter in mottled layers, soft, elastic, broken down, and exuded a thin serous juice.