

NOTES ON SURGERY.

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CASE 1.—AMPUTATION OF THE HAND.—Mr. McD. came under my care last June. He had, prior to this, consulted my friend, Dr. McCrimmon, who had told him that he was suffering from a malignant tumor of the metacarpal bone of the middle finger. He then sought relief from a "cancer doctor," some twenty miles from here. At the end of a few weeks he returned, and asked my advice. The hand was now quite powerless; the metacarpal bones of the index, middle and ring fingers were denuded and protruding, detached from the phalanges; wrist joint and carpal bones seriously involved. I operated, by removing the hand, and in a short time he returned home as well as could be expected.

REMARKS.—There was nothing in the operation more than ordinary; but such cases as this, and others of a similar nature, show very clearly that the public really require protection, more than the medical profession. The law, as it is at present, is useless as a means of protection, and stands much in need of amendment. If this patient had been properly treated at an early period, the hand might have been saved. Here we have a quack "cancer doctor," without any qualification or knowledge of disease whatever, who entirely ignores the medical profession and its rules and regulations, practising upon the credulity of poor, confiding patients, and there is apparently no law to prevent it—no penalty—no redress..

CASE 2.—AMPUTATION OF THE BREAST.—Towards the end of January, 1872, Mrs. J. G., of this neighborhood, came under my care, with undoubted and well marked symptoms of cancer of the right mammary gland. There was no complication whatever of the axilla or other parts, as far as we could see. She was about 40 years of age; of spare habit; has been 18 years married, had no children; complained for some time of derangement of the stomach and general debility, biliousness and nervousness. The ovaries were slightly enlarged, but there was no functional derangement of these organs. Several medical men in this vicinity were called in consultation, and we all agreed that the sooner the breast was removed the better.