

inclined him to the belief that hardly any laceration of the testicle could be so severe as to warrant castration, although from what he had been able to gather from the literature of the subject within his reach, immediate removal of the organ was recommended in severe injuries. All authors say that the injured testicle usually atrophies, and is sometimes the seat of neuralgic pain, so that, as far as future usefulness went, it might as well be removed at once.

The patients, however, are always pleased to have as much saved as possible. In the statistics in the surgical volume of *The History of the American Rebellion* the expectant treatment seems to have given better results than active operative interference; 586 cases are reported. The testicle was extirpated in 61 of these: 18 per cent. died. Of the remainder, treated by the expectant treatment, 11.9 per cent. died.

SEPARATION OF THE FIRST AND SECOND PIECES OF THE STERNUM.

Dr. BLACKADER reported a case of a young man aged eighteen, who, whilst exercising on the parallel bars in a gymnasium, felt something give away. On examination it was found that the first piece of the sternum was riding on the second; it was reduced without much difficulty, and kept in place with compresses and straps.

FRACTURE OF THE CLAVICLE WITH WOUND OF THE LUNG.

Dr. F. W. CAMPBELL reported a case of fracture of the clavicle, in a coachman, aged thirty, caused by falling off his carriage and striking his shoulder on the wheel as he fell. The outer fragment was driven backward, and the lung was evidently wounded, as there was a large amount of air in the cellular tissue. The man when first seen was in a semi-collapsed condition, and the whole neck was emphysematous. At first he was in doubt as to whether or not there was a fracture of the first rib, so he was sent to the General Hospital.

Dr. RODDICK remarked that wound of the lung is a rare complication of fracture of the clavicle, and that there are very few cases on record. The man had been under his care in the hospital, and it was with difficulty that he could get the outer fragment into position. But the man is now doing well, and the bones are in good position.

Progress of Science.

FOREIGN BODIES IN THE VAGINA.*

By THEOPHILUS PARVIN, M.D., of PHILADELPHIA.

The vagina has been more frequently the receptacle of foreign bodies than has any other cavity of the human organism, and the variety of these bodies has been greater.

Among those which have been voluntarily or accidentally introduced by the female herself, may be mentioned † hair-pins, toilet-pins, needle-cases, crochet-needles, pebbles, spools, a pepper-box, a cotton veil, sponges, the bobbin of a spinning-wheel, the reel of a sewing-machine, lead-pencils, jelly-moulds, pewter cups, the neck and shoulders of a corked vial, the cup of a drinking flask, the socket of a brass candlestick, and the head and bust of a china doll. In regard to the last foreign body referred to, the history ‡ of the case was briefly as follows: A mulatto girl, thirteen years of age, in June introduced a doll's head and bust in the vagina, and in the succeeding November first complained of the suffering its presence caused; she assured her mother that she had swallowed the doll—her name was probably Sapphira—and it was only when partially anæsthetized she confessed that she put it in her vagina; both the truth and the baby came out under the influence of chloroform.

The motives which have led woman or girls to voluntarily place foreign bodies in the vagina have been many, though not as numerous as the cases. A purse of money has been put in the vagina for concealment; a sponge has been placed at the mouth of the womb just before coition, in order to prevent conception, and forgotten until many months after, when deterioration of health, offensive discharge and hemorrhages from the vagina, and pain, led to the suspicion, if not the diagnosis, of cancer. In some cases the foreign body has been pushed, in thoughtless play, into the mouth of the vagina—sent on a sort of exploring tour, just as children drop pebbles into a well, or throw them in a cave; while in others, a morbid desire for sympathy, or to attract attention, may have been the motive for its introduction. In some cases the foreign body has been put in the vagina to stop the monthly flow; in two instances, girls menstruating for the first time—ignorant, surprised, and fearful at the discharge of blood—sought to arrest it by putting a spool in the vagina. In some cases the voluntary introduction

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† Some in the list are taken from Briesky, "Die Krankheiten der Vagina," Billroth's "Handbuch der Frauenkrankheiten," while the authorities from which many of the others have been derived will be mentioned in the course of the paper.

‡ Dr. Smith, New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, February, 1884.