

*Observations on Hare-Lip and Cleft Palate.* By SIR WILLIAM FERGUSSON, BART., F.R.S., Surgeon to King's College Hospital.

It may seem recurring to an oft-told story, to refer to hare-lip as giving opportunity of saying anything new or good on such a familiar subject. I fancy that, in my time, I have seen considerable changes for the better in regard to the treatment of such cases, that even now, after the experience of many hundred examples, I think that I can make some observations worthy of consideration. The operation for this malformation was one of the first I ever performed on the living body. It was done some forty-five years ago, and ever since I have taken interest in it, both in my own practice and that of others. I have repeatedly, in public hospital practice, operated on two or three cases in a single day, and I have read most that has been written on the subject throughout my professional life. It may perhaps, be claiming more than I am entitled to, to say that, prior to the publication of my first edition of *Practical Surgery*, there had been little written regarding the anatomical condition of this malformation. There were few men, if any, alive who could state positively, or could show by specimens, what was the nature of the substance of the intermediate hard material in the midst of the two gaps in the upper alveolar ridge, in the case of double hare-lip. It was not known positively whether it was single or double. So far as I know, it was never even conjectured how it was held in its place; its relations with the vomer were unknown. The number of teeth likely to be developed in it, or their future quality, were little thought of, and the mass itself was found, in most instances, to be specially in the way of any contemplated operation. Until within these few years, there was not a skeleton of such a part in any museum in this country, and, in as far as I know, the specimens presented by myself to the Royal College of Surgeons are still the chief, if not the only, examples of the kind in our anatomical museums. Our knowledge on most such