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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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ART. XI.—*Cases in Surgery* By HORACE NELSON, M. D., late Editor of "*Nelson's American Lancet*," and former Professor of Surgery in the University of Vermont, &c.

1. *Case of Impalement terminating fatally on the second day from unascertained causes.*

John Corrigan of Plattsburgh, an active boy, ten years of age, on the 12th February, 1857, while jumping in the deep snow, in a garden, during school recess, fell astride the stump of a small apple tree about the size of the thumb and buried in the snow; he at once felt a sharp momentary sting which led him to suppose it had penetrated the anus. Hurrying home, I was soon called to see him, and after a careful visual and digital examination, could detect naught save a very small fissure, more properly speaking a scratch, on the left side of the anal opening, from which a small quantity of blood had escaped. The finger, well oiled, was now introduced into the rectum, but nothing abnormal could be detected, and little pain was complained of from this examination; the bladder was emptied in my presence, the urine being of an healthy aspect. Taking into consideration the absence of unfavorable symptoms, and the good appearance of the little fellow, the friends and bystanders came to the conclusion that he was more "scared than hurt," an opinion in which, I must confess, I was somewhat disposed to acquiesce. He was ordered to bed, cold applications to be kept to the anal and perineal regions, and eight grains of the Compound Ipecacuanha Powder given.

6 o'clock, P. M. The boy has slept three hours; complains of neither pain, soreness nor heat; there is no tumefaction; one evacuation, the fæces being slightly streaked with dark blood; pulse soft and regular; tongue moist; temperature of surface at the natural standard; to continue the cold applications.

Feb. 13th, 9 A. M. Has passed a good night, having slept quietly, and up to breakfast with the family; condition same as yesterday; ordered to remain in bed, and a dessert spoonful of castor oil to be given at noon. I saw the patient again in the evening, and found him improving in every respect; the bowels had