

Probably there is no other disease in which heredity is shown to such an extent. The most noted instance of this disease was that of the Bessel family, in which it was seen in seven generations. In the family of the case presented thirteen members have been or are affected; only two were affected under thirty, the others were past forty. Dr. Osler remarked, in conclusion, that this was the disease that supplied the living skeletons exhibited at circuses, &c.

Dr. R. P. Howard said he had had a case under observation for thirty years, and he is still living. He had treated him by a course of electricity, but the result was negative. The original locality has extended: the extension and flexors of the upper extremities were first affected, now the lower limbs are involved.

Dr. Edwards then read a paper on "A Case of Obstruction in the Bowels," where, after various measures were used to excite the bowels to act, and had failed, the patient was left alone. After sixty-seven days obstruction the bowels acted naturally, but the patient being advanced in life, and much wasted, died three days after.

Dr. R. P. Howard said that, in addition to the means used, kneading the bowels might have been tried.

Dr. Osler stated that he had seen a case in one of the Chicago Journals where the patient had a motion once a year.

Dr. Gardner mentioned one case, where the direct current had excited peristaltic action. Dr. Hingston mentioned a case where the custom was for the patient to have an evacuation once in sixty days.

Dr. Alloway mentioned one case where no action had taken place for five weeks, and then, by assistance, the patient was delivered of a mass the size of a child's head.

Dr. Roddick then read a paper entitled "Remarks on Club Foot," presenting to the Society a little child on whom he had operated.

Dr. Roddick claims for his method originality only in connection with the application of plaster of Paris, soon after the division of the tendons. The plaster bandage is applied directly to the skin, so that the foot cannot move out of position so readily as it otherwise would. A child was exhibited on which he had operated.

In the remarks following this case, Dr. R. P. Howard asked how young a child had an operation been performed, and thought the plan adopted

by Dr. Roddick a most admirable one. Too often in these cases muscles are divided, where, if proper pressure was made, the operation would not be necessary. Dr. Smith quoted the practice of Dr. Broadhurst, which was to have the foot for five days after operating before putting it in its place, differing from that practiced by Dr. Roddick in putting the foot in position immediately after operating.

Dr. Hy. Howard asked Dr. Roddick if he would operate on a child at the age of eight.

The President remarked that this paper was eminently practical. It is a great drawback that we are obliged to send to surgical instrument makers for appliances in these cases, it being certain that no instrument devised can accomplish that which the human hand fails to do. The strip of plaster round the ankle will add to the success of this plan of treatment. The reader of this paper said that he considered one or two months the best time for operating; had he said, one or two hours he would have agreed with him. The two operations for club foot and hair lip should be done immediately after birth. In what cases should we operate? When we cannot bring the foot into proper position by the hand. In regard to the order of division of the tendons, in his early practice Dr. Hingston always divided the tendo achillis first; he did not do so now: this tendon should come last; divide the plantar fascia first.

He did not favor the plan of bringing the foot immediately into position.

In reply, Dr. Roddick said he had operated on a child of eighteen months of age.

As to delay after operation, Dr. Roddick had seen Broadhurst, Adams and Sayre operate, and was more impressed with the latter's mode after operation, which is to bring it into immediate position. He finds that, by so doing, the tendon is not weakened. He would not do the operation above four years of age; at the age of eight if anything was done, he would excise some of the ankle bones.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Roddick was moved and carried.

The Secretary, on behalf of Dr. Osler, announced that two members of the Society have given \$10 for an album, to place photographs of cases and specimens of disease.

The meeting then adjourned.

O. C. EDWARDS, M.D.,

Secretary.