

it to nature; I would do the operation of excision of the head of the bone. It is, however, a happy circumstance to be aware of, that should a wound of this joint come before us at a time when Hospital Gangrene, or other malignant influences affecting the course of wounds, are rife, we may for a time defer the operation without endangering the patient's life or ultimate recovery. In some cases, when the head of the humerus is much shattered, and the scapula implicated in the injury, of course immediate operation is the best, and indeed the only remedy; not alone on account of the saving of the patient's health, by the prevention of inflammation, profuse suppuration, &c., but also on account of the liability which is present to the wounding of some of the vessels of the part, by the numerous sharp spicula of bone. At least half a dozen cases have come under my own observation, in which large vessels were thus wounded, and with fatal results in some of the cases; the constitutions of the men having become so reduced by previous suffering, &c., as to be unable to bear up against a large hæmorrhage. The following case is an example of this nature.

*Case.*—A man belonging to one of the Regiments of Guards was wounded at the battle of the Alma, by a musket-ball, which fractured the head of the humerus with the glenoid cavity of the scapula. The man came under my care about fourteen days after the receipt of the injury, when undergoing treatment in the general Hospital at Scutari; from the extensive injury done to the bones, I called the attention of the Staff Surgeon to the fact, that it was a case requiring amputation, in which opinion he concurred; before, however, arrangements could be made for the performance of the operation, severe hæmorrhage set in, and was with difficulty restrained; the arm was now immediately amputated at the joint, and all injured bone removed, the man was however by this time greatly reduced, and accidental sloughing having attacked the stump, he sank three days after the performance of the operation. I may however, here remark, that whilst very few of those primary operations, done on the field of the Alma, and with all the necessary attending difficulties, failed, very few indeed of the secondary operations performed at Scutari, when all the needful appliances were at hand, recovered.

In the foregoing case, had a primary operation been performed on the field, very little doubt can remain but that the man's life would have been saved

(To be continued.)