

the accident he was at a thrashing bee and was suddenly seized with vomiting and died before I could see him, so that whether his death was in any way connected with the accident or not I cannot state, although a post mortem would have been very interesting.

The treatment in both was essentially similar. Both patients were kept fully under the influence of morphia given in small and repeated doses. I ordered a pledget of absorbent cotton, saturated with a weak solution of carbolic acid to be applied lightly and constantly to the respective wounds. But my main reliance in both cases was the constant application of crushed ice in bladders to the whole of the head for from ten days to two weeks, thus playing, if I may be allowed the expression, a vigorous and successful game of "freeze out," with the threatened cerebral inflammation. Mr. President and gentlemen, the above is a "round and unvarnished tale" of the above cases written in haste and from memory merely. Had I been living in Hillsdale I could doubtless have been able to present you with the gun-breech and screw nail, as well as young Denton in the flesh. I may state, however, that I had the benefit and pleasure of my having friend Dr. Powell in consultation in the case of Denton, and am happy to state that I possess some of the larger pieces of bones removed from the skull of that interesting patient.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF CIRCUMCISION.

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This operation is one that has been practised from the remotest ages. It is customary at the present day with the Christian Copts of Egypt, the Abyssinians, and many of the wild African tribes. It is older than the Koran with the Mahomedans, with whom and the Jews it is practised as a sacred rite. By many it is regarded as belonging peculiarly to the latter people. In America it is not practised at all except when circumstances demand it. The original object of the custom was probably the promotion of cleanliness, which is doubly necessary in hot countries. The fact must be apparent to every medical man that the want of circumcision, and consequently the want of cleanliness, is the direct cause of great discomfort and many diseases, both in old and young, even in temperate Canada; and I unhesitatingly say there

are many lives lost yearly, and many suffering from balanitis posthitis, phimosis and cancer, that might be perfectly well, if this ancient custom were more generally practised. As an example of the fatal tendencies which follow a neglect of this operation, I will cite two cases I met with in practice last summer.

1. George K.—æ. 3 years and 6 mos. Was called to see him in July last. Had been under medical treatment for 4 months. Was given up to die of tuberculosis of the intestines. Found him very much emaciated, so weak he could not stand alone. He was evidently at death's door. He had exacerbations for 2 or 3 days of every week, when his temperature would be 103° F. or more, pulse 140 to 160. He seemed on my first visit to have inflammation of every organ between pubes and larynx, as he cried with pain on even the slightest pressure on abdomen or thorax. Face was covered with boils, stools fetid and mixed with blood, which seemed to confirm diagnosis of tuberculosis. Examined the penis which did not look at all sore, found the foreskin so contracted that I could hardly pass the probe; dilated it with dressing forceps and found it was adherent to the glans. Determined to operate having gained the reluctant consent of the parents who were very incredulous. From the state of the lungs and heart, I considered it unsafe to administer an anæsthetic, so I had the boy firmly held. I slit up the foreskin to a little above the corona. Had much difficulty in peeling the mucous lining from the glans, found lumps of smegma behind and adherent to the glans; stitched the mucous lining on either side to the integument, and washed the parts thoroughly with a solution of boracic acid. The boy never had a bad symptom afterward. His fever disappeared, the heart became regular, the appetite good, and he gained flesh and strength very rapidly. To-day he is a strong healthy lad.

2. George G.—æ. 3 years, was always a delicate child, so much so, that he had never walked. When called to see him he commenced to cry, and the similarity of the sound to the noise made by the boy in the former case, attracted my attention and directed my observation to the same organ, which I found in a similar condition. I performed the same operation and with a similar result. The little fellow was soon running around enjoying good health.