

For its most convenient application, a host of instruments, machines, and processes have, says he, been proposed, and a considerable number of cures obtained by their use. Such cures, however, have not been effected without much pain, great inconvenience, and even danger to the patient, while much anxiety and trouble became imposed upon the surgeon. For several years the author has practised and taught in the University of Padua the means of curing such cases without pain, without inconvenience, and without danger, and that in a few days' time. In this manner he has for four years upheld, that the true method of treatment in any curable form of aneurism is pressure, applied without any instrument, apparatus, or mechanical contrivance of any kind, but in every case solely by the hand. He therefore claims for Italy not only the merit of having originated the idea of compression, but of having thus brought that method to its greatest perfection. In conclusion, he says, that by compression with the naked hand alone, a cure can thus be effected easily, speedily, and safely, without risk, and without pain.—*Gazetta Medica Italiana (Lombardia)*, 1858.

*Indirect Compression in Aneurism.*

M. Trombini, in allusion to compression by the hand alone, says, while admitting every credit to the advocates of this method for having originated and carried it out, he does not implicitly admit them to be correct in stating that patients can in this way be cured "easily, speedily, and safely, without risk, and without pain."

M. Nelaton had patients treated in this manner by twenty-four of his pupils; but he was unable to avert suffering, and death followed it in one instance. M. Broca, in his work on Aneurism, thus expresses himself:—"Enough is known of digital compression to prevent any one ever dreaming of its being adopted as an ordinary mode of practice, or its becoming available in any but exceptional cases."

Another motive had also induced M. Trombini to bestow some attention on the writings of M. Vanzetti. He was unwilling that the silence of Italian surgeons on the subject should be construed into their acquiescence in the statement that to them belonged all the merit in this matter, while only a part of it by right belonged to them. In reading the work of Guattani (*De Externis Aneurismatibus*), printed at Rome 1772, we found that compression only constituted an auxiliary to the method of Valsalva, assisting the rest and depressing measures he adopted. To this illustrious Roman surgeon, then, was due the principle of indirect compression. This principle, which was that of retarding the flow of blood into, and thus promoting the formation of a coagulum in the aneurismal sac, had been attempted before, too often ineffectually or even injuriously, until 1825; and to Belmas, of Strasburg, did science owe its first establishment as a doctrine; as was also due to this surgeon the merit of effectually applying this method by multiple and alternate compression. Had practitioners traced the chain of facts put into their hand by the surgeon of Alsace, the period of application would not have been so late as 1842. If, adds M. Trombini, the French surgeons, who have contributed so large a share in this matter, are contented to have cultivated the ground by which others have enjoyed the fruits, M. Vanzetti should content himself with the title to which we Italians can and ought to claim, namely, that of having first cleared a distinct path through this ground by the works and genius of Guattani.—*Gazetta Medica Italiana (Lombardia)*, 1858.

*Aneurism of the Crural Artery treated successfully by Digital Compression.*

M. Riberi relates the following case of this nature. A young man, of good constitution, and of sanguineo-bilious temperament, but who was affected with syphilis, for which he had been improperly treated, received a fall while at his usual occupation, about two and a half months before, from the top of a locomotive engine, and sustained a severe concussion of the spine. Considerable swelling of the lower limbs followed the accident, as he had, in attempting to save himself, landed with great force upon