

RUPTURE OF THE AXILLARY VEIN IN REDUCING AN OLD DISLOCATION OF THE SHOULDER.

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DURING the reduction of old dislocations serious accidents occasionally occur, though the number of reported cases is small. The nerves may be injured or the bone be fractured, and death may ensue in old and feeble persons from shock, cerebral thrombus, and embolism. Rupture of the axillary artery or vein may occur, and such an accident calls for prompt action on the part of the surgeon and tests his coolness and skill.

In many cases, after most careful and prolonged efforts at reduction, the bone still remains unreduced, and an operation has to be undertaken for its replacement. Even after all the apparently obstructing structures have been divided, the bone cannot be put into place, and excision has to be performed as a last resort; this procedure usually gives very good results, that is as regards the usefulness of the arm.

Tearing away of the greater and lesser tuberosities during dislocation is an accident which occurs more frequently than is generally believed and much complicates the case. Such a separation occurred in the case I shall now relate.

M. W., aged sixty-two years, a tall spare man with an anxious expression of face, was admitted to the Montreal General Hospital, April 24, 1901, complaining of severe pain in the shoulder. He gave the following history: During a drunken