

so fashionable some years ago. The profuse salivation, ending in ulceration of the cheek internally, finally resulted in rigidity of the parts, especially the masseter muscle, whereby the jaw was permanently closed. That the disease is not known in Europe, seems to be substantiated by the fact that no mention is made of it by English writers at least. That it is due to salivation, seems to be corroborated by the case we purpose to relate. Dr. Mott of New York was the first writer to treat particularly of the disease; and to perform an operation for its relief. His first case is recorded in the American Journal for Nov., 1829. When a student in New York in 1853, I saw Dr. Mott perform the operation by introducing a narrow bistoury by the mouth, and dividing the masseter muscle, and then with a screw and lever, he forcibly opened the mouth. The result was satisfactory.

The case I am about to give, it will be seen, was something more than simply a rigidity of the masseter muscle.

Miss P. consulted me last fall respecting her face, which was to her a source of great annoyance and pain. The account given by herself was as follows: When about two and a half years old, she chanced to get hold of a box of mercury pills, a number of which she ate. The same day she accidentally fell into a drain, getting herself quite wet; the following morning her face was swollen and sore. In a few days ulceration commenced on the inner surface of the left cheek. This gradually extended, until the whole thickness of the cheek was involved, and finally, in about ten weeks from the time she swallowed the pills, a large portion of the cheek fell off (no doubt a gangrenous portion which had just become detached), leaving a space the size of a penny piece. The mouth remained intact. The healing rapidly progressed, and soon closed up the space in the cheek, but at the same time completely locked the jaw. From that time to the present, some twenty-four years, the mouth has been firmly shut; so closely indeed that once she got a pin between the teeth into the mouth, and had great difficulty to get it out. And she has a horrid remembrance of Christmas day, when twelve years, having two of her teeth come out in the mouth, which she held there all day, and which she only at night determined to swallow, lest they might choke her while asleep. When nearly five years old an operation was attempted to secure mobility of the jaw. She says the soft parts were thoroughly divided from the jaw bones, but the object was not accomplished. Again, when about fifteen the operation was repeated by another surgeon, which also failed. Five years ago the face became swollen, and an abscess formed in the left cheek, anterior to the cicatrix. This opened inside the lip at the left corner of the mouth; the part again healed. Last August