

*Case of Fracture of the bodies of the 4th and 5th dorsal Vertebrae—Complete paraplegia—Recovery.* Under Dr. Ross. Reported by Mr. C. N. STEVENSON.

Louise L. aged 17, housemaid, was admitted into the Montreal General Hospital on 28th Sept. 1875, with loss of power in the legs, the result of a fall. It appears that on the 26th Sept. she was engaged washing windows in the second story of a house looking out upon a garden, when the ladder on which she stood gave way and she was precipitated to the ground. She thinks she was not stunned or rendered unconscious, and insists that she fell face downwards, striking violently upon something directly across the pit of her stomach. She tried to rise but could not and had to be lifted and carried into the house—She was very shortly after seen by a neighboring physician who found her completely paraplegic, the bladder also being involved. He had fly-blisters applied on the spine and to the backs of the legs.

On admission, there was complete loss of sensation and motion in both legs—there was also paralysis of the bladder and consequent retention, which had already necessitated the employment of the catheter. On examination of the vertebral column, very decided prominence was to be observed opposite the situation of the 4th and 5th dorsal vertebrae. Pressure in this situation was found to be exceedingly painful, causing at the same time sensations as of pins and needles running through the body in different directions. She has large blistered surfaces down the back and on the calves of the legs. These sores were dressed with zinc ointment—she was ordered an air bed, and to be cathetered twice daily.

*Sept. 30th*—Rested badly. Suffers a good deal of pain in the back. Pulse 125.

*Oct. 3rd*—Has had no movement of the bowels, still requires daily catheterization. Pulse 108. Ordered an enema.

*Oct. 6th*.—In spite of the air-bed, a slight bedsore is forming on the left nates. It was dressed with soap plasters. Pulse 108.