

HOSPITAL REPORTS.

Compound comminuted fracture of the outer ankle, from the bite of a bear.—William Jordan, healthy and temperate, *ætat* 25, a gardener in the employ of Mr. Gimbault, upon passing through the zoological grounds on the evening of the 12th September, 1853, kicked back his left leg at a large black bear, which refused to obey his beckoning, when the animal sprung at his outstretched foot and caught the ankle in its mouth, locking its jaws across the transverse axis of the joint. He was held fast in this manner for a few moments, until rescued by some bystanders.—Several wounds were inflicted by the teeth, and one in particular larger than the rest, over the lower end of the fibula, from which a practitioner who saw him soon after the occurrence of the accident removed a small bit of bone. During the night he lost a considerable quantity of blood.

Next day he was admitted into the Montreal General Hospital by Dr. Wright, when, upon examination, the part appeared slightly swollen, and was very painful. A confused wound existed over the inner malleolus, of slight extent, and not deeper than the skin. Over the outer malleolus was a large open wound, irregular in shape with lacerated and everted margins, filled with clotted blood: on probing this the bone beneath was found splintered and broken into splinters, some of which were wholly detached and easily taken away, during the operation, while others were so adherent that their removal was not deemed expedient. The form of the outer malleolus was preserved, showing the absence of any complete separation longitudinally, and neither bones of the leg having been fractured transversely, there was no shortening or displacement of the foot. A smaller circular wound, bruised, and not unlike that from a gun shot, lay along the outside of the tendo achilles, and between this and the first mentioned were seated four small abrasions at short intervals from one another. He was directed to keep warm water dressing constantly applied, and to take a table spoonful of mist antimonial aperien every three hours.

15th. Wounds not bordered by redness and not very painful, looking sloughy; through the largest, which is about the size of a shilling and painful, the bone can be readily felt bared. The abrasions have scabbed. Sleeps well; pulse not accelerated; bowels not moved for two days; tongue slightly furred. R. jalapæ gr. x. hydr. chlorid. gr. ij. ch. iij. j. om. 3h. Cont. mist.

16th. Still constipated. R. scammon Ess. ol. tiglii. gtt. j s.s., which produced the desired effect.

19th. Slight redness round sloughs: feels somewhat painful. Linseed cataplasms substituted for water dressing.

22nd. Considerable portion of sloughs separated and succeeded by healthy granulation and suppuration: a portion of slough at bottom of largest wound appears to consist of fibrous tissue. Only two wounds now exist; the remainder—chiefly abrasions—are healed. No pain; no fever. Sleeps well.

24th. Getting hungry: increased diet: omit mixt.

26th. Slough entirely detached: exposed surface studded with healthy granulations: no part of bone seems uncovered. Over the largest ulcer there is loss of skin for nearly size of a half crown piece, and over the other for about one third this size. Omit catapl. Approximate edges with straps of adhesive plaister.