

mended; and if none of these could be gotten down, nutritious enemata to sustain his system.

The stricture was situated six inches from the dental arches—below the most usual seat for such affections—which is the connection of the pharynx with the œsophagus.

The middle of December last, this patient becoming daily more feeble, was presented to the class at the college clinic, with the view to an operation, should one be deemed advisable. He was now reduced almost to skin and bones; neither could his pulse be discerned at the wrist. It was not until he arrived at this low condition that his master consented to consider the question of œsophagotomy. It was decided in consultation not to operate, and the death of the patient was predicted as probable during the first cold spell of weather.

About ten days after this, a post-mortem revealed a permanent contraction with thickening of the tissues of the œsophagus—the diameter of the strictured portion being reduced to about a line for an inch and a quarter, and which was also quite tortuous in its course. The stomach was contracted and reduced to a very small capacity; but the ilium, to our surprise, was largely distended fœces.

It is highly probable that an attempt at œsophagotomy would have failed.

This is another case added to several noticed in our Journals, of permanent stricture of the œsophagus produced by caustic preparations.—*Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*.

*Wound of the heart, penetrating the right ventricle, from which the patient recovered.*—Read before the Association, by CHARLES E. LAVENDER, M. D.—James H—, student, aged 19 years, of good health and sound constitution was stabbed, on the 9th of April, 1850, in the left breast, by a fellow student, with a pocket knife, the blade of which was about three inches long and three-fourths of an inch wide in the middle, and very narrow at the point.

When I saw him, at 4 o'clock, P. M., about five minutes after the wound was inflicted, he was laid on a long table, on his right side, with his head slightly raised. He was vomiting, with jaws rather rigid; countenance rather pale and dead-

ly; respiration irregular, interrupted and terminating in deep sighs; action of the heart entirely suspended; clothes dripping with blood. On tearing away the clothes from his chest, a wound presented itself on the left side, between the sternum and the nipple, about two inches anterior to, and three-fourths of an inch below the left nipple, between the fourth and fifth ribs, at the cartilaginous extremity, the greater extent of wound being between the cartilages. The wound, from which venous blood was flowing in a full, continuous stream, was about one inch in extent, in a direction across the body; the edges of the knife having struck the lower side of the cartilage and the upper side of the rib. The cut edges of the intercostal muscles were distinctly seen, through which a dark opening, about the size of a man's forefinger, allowed the blood to flow. One gallon and a half of blood was supposed to be lost; it could not have been less than one gallon. The right ventricle of the heart was evidently opened, and I supposed he could not live fifteen minutes.

I turned him hastily on his back, raised his right arm, which was pendulous, and placed it by his side, dashed a large towel, just dipped in a bucket of cold water, on his chest; sprinkled cold water and spirits of camphor in his face, and secured free ventilation. The bleeding stopped instantly, but the breathing continued oppressed, interrupted, and somewhat stertorous. About five minutes after the bleeding ceased, a slight flutter was felt in the heart, and was distinctly appreciable under the palm of my hand, at irregular intervals, for a minute or more, when pulsation became perceptible, and in a few minutes more there was pulsation at the wrist. He now swallowed water, and spoke inchoerently; breath during this time cold. A mattress was drawn under and blankets thrown over him, and he was kept on his back, with his shoulders slightly elevated. About 5 o'clock, he recognized persons, spoke hurriedly, called for persons, and supposed he was dying; but he afterwards remembered nothing that occurred before 6 o'clock, at which time he became exceedingly restless, complained of a pain in his breast and head, with some thirst. Pulse feeble, interrupted, and over one hundred.