

FRACTURE OF SKULL—HERNIA CEREBRI—RECOVERY

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On the 2nd Oct., 1870, I was called to see Ellen G., a little girl, let seven years, who, two hours previous to my arrival, had been kicked by a horse. The blow was received on the frontal bone above and posterior to the left eye. She was semi-conscious and suffering from shock. The wound was long and irregular, cutting through the eyebrow and extending upwards and backwards for about three inches. The frontal bone was plainly visible in the wound, and upon first examination no fracture was felt. When, however, the finger was pushed well back beneath the loosened scalp, a large, irregular opening in the bone was discovered. The edges were serrated and sharp, and in the bottom of the opening fragments of bone were felt imbedded in the cerebral substance. When the child coughed portions of the brain escaped.

Dr. Smith, of Ridgelytown, was called in consultation. As soon as reaction was established, chloroform was administered and the fracture freely exposed. The opening measured more than two inches in length and $\frac{1}{2}$ wide. Five fragments of bone were removed, some of them being buried completely in the cerebral mass. The edges of the wound were now brought into apposition and retained with sutures aided by adhesive straps, and cold water dressing applied. The child suffered greatly from the shock of the operation—for a time it seemed that she would never rally. However, in 48 hours reaction began, with high fever, pulse 150, with signs of compression and vomiting. The head was kept very cool, and the pulse controlled with drop doses of *Tr. Veratrum Viride*. Soon the wound began to discharge freely, and heal by granulation.

At the end of twelve days a bulging was observed, and Hernia Cerebri suspected. Pressure was applied, but signs of compression compelled its removal. The tumor burst open the wound, rapidly increased, and the integument was uniting around its pedicle. I advised removal, and invited my friend Dr. T. Holmes of Chatham to aid me.

On Nov. 4 the child was placed under chloroform, the integument dissected back, the pedicle exposed and divided as deeply