

CLINICAL LECTURE.

On Surgical Injuries Admitted into the London Hospital, Etc. By JOHN ADAMS, Esq., F. R. C. S., Surgeon to the Hospital.

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Every tissue of the body is liable to accident—from the outer covering of the body to parts in its inmost recesses: there is scarcely a point (however careful Nature may have been in defending it) but is liable to shock or injury from external violence. Accidents, for the most part, are found in different tissues to conform themselves to general laws. Thus, injuries of the skin result in laceration, and even lacerations assume particular directions in many instances. Again, injuries of muscles, result either in division or rupture; injuries of tendons, in strains or rupture; whilst ligaments are either sprained or divided by rupture. Bones are liable to fractures of various kinds, also to contusions; and so we may proceed through various parts, observing that all the tissues are simultaneously liable to contusions, lacerations, and incisions; and hence, in treating deep-seated wounds, your treatment must be adapted to what I may term the exigencies of every individual tissue of a part.

You must, of course, expect out of thousands of cases great similarity; but you must be prepared for some cases of a very unusual character. Perhaps no two cases are quite parallel; but it happens occasionally that *unusual* cases occur, and sometimes most *extraordinary* accidents will happen. Thus, I may mention that three dislocations of the hip in children *under* 10 years of age, have been admitted into the hospital in my recollection. In two the dislocation occurred upwards, and in the other downwards; so also I may mention a case now under my care, not strictly an accident, but admitted here as a casualty. It is a case of extravasation of urine, occurring in a child of 5 years of age without external violence. This is most unusual. Amongst the extraordinary cases, I may mention one of a sailor, who had fallen from the yard-arm of a vessel into the London Dock, and was picked out of the water without his right arm, which had been torn off in falling, and was never after found! Another instance occurs to my mind: a man was pinned to the deck of a ship by a bolt of only four inches in length, which was attached to the lower end of a mast. The bolt passed through his chest, close to the base of the heart, through the lung, and, coming out close to the spine, was driven an inch into the deck. The man got well! So I can mention to you a case, extraordinary from the recovery after numerous fractures and dislocations. A man was brought to the hospital, having fallen from the yard-arm, and was found to have sustained all the following injuries—in fact, knocked to pieces, as one might say:—Dislocation downwards of the right humerus; dislocation backwards of the right femur; dislocation inwards and backwards of the right tibia and ankle, and a wound; fracture of the left tibia just below its head, and dislocation backwards of the fibula; comminuted fracture of the left os calcis; fracture of the external malleolus. Yet he recovered!