

ring-finger crushed, splitting the bone into lateral halves. As much of the phalanx was removed as was thought would insure ready healing. When the finger was about healed he complained of not feeling well, but kept at work. On the second day of illness, found jaws closed and spasms coming on, causing him to rest on his abdomen and chest. On the third day, temp. 102; neurotomy of the ulnar, median and radial nerves was performed, completely isolating the finger. The joint was removed at the same time. Chloral and potass bromide were used. By evening the mouth could be opened with the greatest freedom, and only during the spasms would it shut violently. The spasms, however, continued; the temperature gradually rose, and on the third day after the operation death ensued. The only direct effect of the operation, in this case, was the relaxation of the muscles of the jaw. The reason of the delay in operating in this case, was the almost total absence of the spasms for a time, under the use of the chloral and bromide mixture. They however returned violently, although the medicine was kept up with the result above stated. There appears no doubt that it is through the medium of the nervous system that the blood changes if any are induced. I have no doubt, however, that the pathological changes take place first in the nervous system, whether the disease be idiopathic or traumatic.

ACCIDENTS OF GAMES.

Foot ball.—I will simply quote a few paragraphs that should prevent a Canadian adopting the rude and barbarous sport of the United Empire. I refer to the Rugby game. What is said by surgeons in England against foot ball, is aimed chiefly at the Rugby rules. If these rules are entirely done away with, or even modified, I believe it will be because of their unanimous condemnation by the profession. Surely unavoidable accidents happen only too frequently without playing according to rules, the inherent nature of which will lead to serious injuries. A. Williamson, manager of the Northern Accident Insurance Co., states in the *Lancet*, "that he had been compelled to decline renewing all special policies covering foot ball and bicycling accidents only, as our experience went to show that these risks, as a special class, were most unprofitable." The accidents attending other sports cannot be numerous or dangerous, for he states, "all our

general accident policies cover these risks (foot ball and bicycling) without extra premium." The *Lancet* states that our often repeated assertion that accidents arising from foot ball, as at present played, are more numerous than those occasioned by any other athletic exercise. One of the most painful features of foot ball is the fact that so many of the injuries received in playing this game, when not immediately fatal, often incapacitate the player for life, and render him a burden on his relatives. Such phrases as the following appear in the English medical periodicals, referring to the Rugby game: "The uncontrollable brutalities and roughness of the pastime."—"Brutal and dangerous." Without doubt the consensus of opinion of surgeons is that no such game as the Rugby should ever be indulged in. Under modified rules accidents happen only too frequently. During two seasons of short duration your reporter observed in the matches he played in, a broken clavicle, a dislocated elbow, a fractured pelvis, a case of temporary unconsciousness, besides many minor injuries, chiefly bruises to the shins and ankles. Even this much happened under rules which did not permit the carrying of the ball. From the medical literature on the subject, it appears that those who would approve of the Rugby game, and who see in it manly qualities, would approve likewise of a bull or cock fight. The chief danger of the Rugby game appears to be affections of the spine, resulting in muscular paralysis.

Cricket.—This pastime is not altogether free from accidents, but I think it may be asserted that if the crease is a good one the accidents will be few. The players who receive most bruises are the wicket-keeper and the batsman. If played, however, according to custom and rules, bruises are very rare. In the past two years while on the cricket field, I noticed a fracture of the zygomatic arch, in a wicket-keeper, and a fracture of the nasal bones in a batsman. Both of these accidents were due, it is altogether likely, to an imperfect crease. No game it appears could be more free from accidents, although it is not uncommon to see a wicket-keeper or a batsman lay sprawling on the ground from the ball occasionally striking the testicle, but the injured one soon recovers and proceeds with the game. Accidents of a more serious nature are very seldom reported from the cricket field.

Lacrosse.—Accidents in this game occur undoubtedly, in proportion to the manliness of the