

A LARGE MOUTH CONCRETION.¹

BY

JAMES BELL, M.D.,

Surgeon to the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Mrs. G., *æt.* 32, consulted me in September, 1896, for a large growth of long standing, which had filled up the right buccal cavity and had caused ulceration through the upper lip and great deformity of the face. The history was as follows: At the age of 12 years she had suffered from "fever," which had lasted a considerable time and had been followed by a slow convalescence, during which, she stated, that the teeth in the right side of the lower jaw had become loose and dropped out one by one, but without any pain or ulceration of the gums. The teeth had all dropped out in about six months, and then she began to notice a "shell-like" mass on the gums from which the teeth had fallen, apparently in the area occupied by the molar teeth. For ten years this growth was gradual and gave her practically no trouble. Then deformity of the face began to be noticeable and increased steadily. It was, however, only within the last year that marked increase in the size of the mass had been observed and troublesome symptoms had developed. On examination, the growth was found to fill the whole right cheek and to have produced great flattening of the right side of the face and the right nostril. It had ulcerated through the upper lip at one point, and the whole lip was greatly swollen. The point which presented at the angle of the mouth was evidently calcareous, but I mistook this for a simple coating of calcareous matter. The fetor was horrible and the mouth was so sensitive that no manipulation was possible. I looked upon it as a growth from the upper alveolar border, probably originally of the nature of epulis, but having recently (coincidentally with the history of rapid increase in growth and symptoms), become malignant, and advised removal of the upper jaw. She went home, but returned and was admitted to the hospital on October 12th and prepared for operation on the 19th. When she was fully anesthetized, I was able, for the first time, to make an examination of the mouth. I then found, to my surprise, that the mass consisted simply of a large concretion the size of a large hen's egg, lying free in the mouth, having formed a cavity for itself by displacement of the soft parts and

¹ Shown at the meeting of the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, October 16th 1896.