

venæsection. The rush of blood that escaped upon the first sweep of the knife may partly be explained in this way: it was, however, so much more abundant than common, that it must principally be referred to an unusually capacious or developed state of the vascular system of the part. The first idea which it suggested was not countenanced by subsequent discoveries, for no sac existed, nor was the artery diseased or degenerated. Supposing, however, the case had turned out to be one of pure aneurism, amputation would still have been preferable to deligation of the subclavian arteries, for many reasons. The risk to life would have been less. The mortality after ligature of this vessel in the third part of its course—the portion to be chosen,—is, in round numbers, 1 in 2, after amputation 1 in 3. The danger is not altogether to the artery being tied, for this happens in both operations, but to the exemption of amputation—of ligating in a flap—from many of the perils which follow the special cutting down upon the artery as wound of the pleura, &c.; as well as from others that depend upon the continued connexion of the limb to the trunk, as erysipelas or gangrene. Another positive benefit afforded, by amputation is, the patient is a gainer of a large share of blood, which was formerly detracted from the wants of more healthy parts to supply the morbid craving of the diseased limb. He has not so much surface nor so many somatic atoms to furnish with nutriment. The little blood he has, will now go further and do more than it did before, and, in a case like the above, the importance of such an advantage is very obvious. Furthermore, the great recommendation—saving the limb—in favour of the ligature, would have been, on the most favorable supposition, a doubtful reality; for, had the arm united crookedly, had the external hardness been a subcutaneous deformity of the mis-placed broken ends, of what use would have been the preservation of such a member? even the possibility of the sac undergoing the necessary changes of resolution, if fully carried out, would have availed nothing. Had, lastly, it may be urged, the case been one of aneurism, the state of the artery would, from proximity, have probably been unhealthy where it was required to be encircled by the ligature; and it would not have undertaken those sanitary changes of reparation which secure the perfect sealing up of its channel, but upon ulceration occurring have become the source of secondary hæmorrhage of a most hopeless nature.

DISSECTION OF THE LIMB.—The tumor underwent an apparent hardening after the detachment of the limb, and was rather more firm; its measurement indicated no material reduction in size. Its chief projection was forwards and outwards. It presented a subdivision into two enlargements which were separated from each other by a sulcus corresponding to the