

other attendants, may also very materially influence the fatality of wounds, and ought therefore, to be carefully investigated. Mahon says, that in some hospitals, particularly the Hotel-Dieu of Paris, trepanning is almost always mortal.

Injuries of the brain are always serious, as well as those of the cranium ; but their fate is uncertain, for persons will recover under extensive injuries, as proved by a remarkable case related by Dr. Morrin, in the 3rd. No. of this Journal, while others will sink under very slight wounds. Wounds of the eyes are also deemed dangerous, from the intimate connexion of these organs with the brain. "A sharp-pointed instrument has sometimes penetrated the nose, touched the brain, and hence proved fatal. Wounds of the internal ear may also destroy hearing, and from their vicinity to the brain, prove dangerous. In the division of the frænum linguæ in children, the ranular artery has also bled to death.

Penetrating wounds of the thorax are not in general dangerous, unless combined with fracture of the ribs, or the rupture of some blood-vessels, or with emphysema, particularly when the injury has been inflicted at the upper part of the thorax, or at the posterior side near the junction of the ribs with the vertebræ. The Editor relates the case of a Sergeant Verney, of the 59th Regt. who, at the battle of the Falls of Niagara, received a shot which entered about an inch and a half on the right side of the sternum, and came out behind, about the same distance from the spine, from which he recovered completely. The lungs are also subject to concussion, which is termed *wind concussion*, and is usually fatal. Fractures, luxations, and contusions of the vertebral column are all highly dangerous.

Wounds of the heart are not always immediately mortal.—A British soldier in Spain survived thirteen days with a musket ball in his heart. The reason is that in some cases, the forcing body prevents by its closing the aperture, the fatal