

The condition of the right shoulder joint is of interest in accounting for a wound evidently made from the left side, although the deceased was a right-handed man. It was shown by the evidence that he had sprained his right arm some months before, and since then had not been able to use it freely.

The sclerotic changes in the brain and spinal cord were of interest as evidence of actual nervous disorder, though not those commonly found in cases of suicidal mania.

The verdict rendered was "*Suicide while insane.*"

CASE 58.—L. P., aged 30, was stated to have committed suicide by discharging a shotgun into the right side of his head, on June 17th, 1893.

*External Examination.*—Clotted blood mixed with disintegrated brain matter over the right shoulder and right side of head. A large lacerated wound  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter involves the anterior half of the right ear and the adjacent skin of the cheek, and from it brain tissue protrudes. The edges of the wound are blackened, and a sooty-looking zone extends for 2 inches about the periphery. Hair about right ear singed. The whole region of the petrous bone appears shattered. The floor of the auditory meatus is intact. No wad or shot found. The bones of the skull can be felt to be fractured in many places, and the head can be moulded in any desired shape. On opening the mouth, superior maxilla and hard palate felt to be fractured on the right side. On the right forearm a sooty mark extends across the radial side, 3 inches above the wrist, the skin being scorched and the hairs singed.

The medical point of chief interest in this case was the line of powder smut across the radial surface of the right wrist, at a point where the skin would have been directly over the vent of the breech-loading shotgun used, had the deceased reached along the barrel to pull the trigger, after placing the muzzle against his head, as he was stated to have done by the chief witness at the inquest, who was present at the time of the suicide.

Verdict, "*Suicide while insane.*"

CASE 90.—J. P., aged 20, accidentally shot in the neck by an intoxicated friend with a shotgun, at 10 feet. Died almost instantly.

*External Examination,* August 5th, 1893.—Clothing about neck smeared with blood. In anterior region of neck, at level of larynx, is a large, deep, lacerated wound. The edges of the wound are inverted, and show powder tattooing and blackening for a distance of 1 inch from the wound. The wound is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, and the larynx and trachea are torn open and seen to be filled with bloody froth. No isolated shot holes.