

Finally, the injection of the body, officiously made by the undertaker, further tended to complicate matters.

The clinical history of the case was kindly furnished by Dr. J. M. Elder.

CASE 48.—*Fracture of the Skull and Body of 11th Dorsal Vertebra, without external signs.*—D. M., sailor, aged 23, fell 18 feet into the hold of a ship, striking the head upon some iron rails. Was removed immediately, but was found to be breathing his last.

*External Examination.*—Whitish foam about nostrils. Skin of nose lacerated and left nasal bone broken; a lacerated and contused wound in R. parietal region.

*Internal Examination.*—In right parietal region the subcutaneous tissue of the scalp and the pericranium are extensively ecchymosed, the extravasated blood extending behind the right ear down the sheath of the right sterno-mastoid.

A line of fracture extends downwards along the posterior border of the right parietal bone, and through the occipital bone to the *foramen magnum*, and a branch fracture extends through the mastoid and petrous bone into the sphenoidal fissure.

Beneath the pia an extensive diffused hæmorrhage fills the sulci over the right parietal region, the inner surface of the right hemisphere, the lower surface of the left temporal lobe, and the upper surface of the cerebellum. Punctate hæmorrhages are seen in the ganglia at the base.

Heart normal. Lungs crepitant; intensely congested, with small hæmorrhagic foci scattered through their substances. Numerous small emphysematous bubbles beneath the pleuræ. Bronchi filled with fine reddish froth. A large area of hæmorrhage behind the aorta just above the diaphragm on the right side, extending behind the pleura. The body of the 11th vertebra is seen to be fractured, and at this point there is hæmorrhage into the spinal canal, but the cord is apparently neither lacerated nor compressed.

Spleen large and soft; weighs 300 grammes. Other organs normal.

An interesting point in this case was that the only injuries detected, on external examination, were the injury to the nose and the laceration of the scalp. No signs of the fracture of the vertebra or skull could be made out externally.

The condition of the spleen possibly explained the fact that the man walked in a remarkably stupid manner into the hatchway, although there was a plank across it, by suggesting that he may have been in the early stage of some acute febrile disorder.

*Fracture of Skull with Multiple Crushing Injuries.*

J. T. and L. L., workmen employed in tearing down the walls of a building destroyed by fire, were killed by a wall falling upon them.