

trast many of those means in their application to the numerous mixed and complicated cases of injuries on the head, with a non-interference of their objects, I am conscientiously borne out, and confirmed in the opinion, that, to that non-interference alone are many fellow-beings indebted for their actual existence: and the registers of the Marine Hospital record the names of hundreds, as irrefragable evidence of the truth of this startling allegation.

In the following cases, I have omitted the minor details of treatment, as not connected with the facts I am desirous to illustrate, and even condensed them in other particulars, in the view of not only affording room for many important communications from your intelligent correspondents, but from an intention of preparing for the press, in a more extended form, the result of practical observations upon injuries of the head.

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James Douglas, seaman, aged 40, was admitted into the Marine Hospital on the afternoon of the 19th September, 1837. He had fallen from a considerable height into the hold of the ship. Perfectly insensible; pulse 50, and intermitting; intense coldness throughout the whole extremities; a livid appearance on the left side of the face, with continued twitching of the muscles; breathing in a slight degree stertorous, and apparently through the nose: pupils of the natural size, and irides susceptible of light, and tongue pressed against the velum and palate.

The whole head was examined with much accuracy, but no part of the scalp appeared lacerated; no depression of bone, no tumefaction, but all indicated great mischief, concealed in the brain. The following morning, when I accompanied Dr. Douglas, the case had assumed no change,—the same pulse, the same twitchings, &c. Towards the evening, the powers of life were, to all appearances, absolutely sinking; on the third day, the same; but the tongue had resumed its natural position, and small quantities of liquids were introduced into the stomach. Thus he continued, day after day, in a complete state of coma, and *articulo mortis*, when, to our great astonishment, on the morning of the twelfth day after his admission, he spoke—in the afternoon, spoke rationally, and continued rapidly from that period to obtain strength and his wonted health; and, on the 21st November, was discharged, as fit to join a corps of volunteers. In that corps, out of his element as a seaman, his feet and legs became frost-bitten, through long exposure to cold, and he was readmitted into hospital on the 13th January, 1838, labouring under very extensive sloughing of these parts, with general debility, and died three days after.

John Ward, seaman, aged 23, was admitted into the Marine Hospital