

THE TREATMENT
OF
ANEURISM OF THE ARTERIA INNOMINATA,
BY LIGATURE OF
THE RIGHT COMMON CAROTID ARTERY*.

The treatment of aneurism by the Brasdorcan operation is peculiar to modern surgery. Sixty years ago it was unknown. Its earliest record is in the "Recueil periodique de la Société de Médecin de Paris" for 1799. It is there stated that after a lengthened consultation upon an aged citizen, afflicted with an inguinal aneurism of great size, two-thirds of the members, among whom were Allan, Brasdor, Boyer, and Corvisart, advised tying of the femoral artery. The ligature was applied, but no benefit was obtained, and the tumor enlarged. In this case the operator was Deschamps, and in proclaiming the fact, he informs us, that although he was the first to put it into practice, the principle was not his own, but emanated with the gentleman by whose name the operation is now conventionally distinguished. He says: "I am the first who has been bold enough to undertake this operation, but not the first to propose it, for a long time ago the late Brasdor first proposed it orally." Since then it has been performed not only upon the femoral, but also upon the subclavian and carotid arteries. With what frequency is, however, unascertainable, for its statistics have been variously and incompletely registered. In Velpeau's Operative Surgery, the operations up to 1845 inclusive, are numbered at 19; and in Erichsen's Surgery, a much later work, they are reduced to 17; while both statements are so imperfect, that each notices examples not comprehended by the other, and neither includes instances of inguinal aneurism. The opinions entertained of its merits have also been conflicting. Mr. A. Burns' denounced it as "absurd in theory" and "ruinous in execution;" but he was too hasty and generalized from the issue of a single case, for up to 1811, when he wrote, Deschamps was without a rival. Seventeen

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