

I have now the pleasure of submitting to the consideration of the profession what, I believe, may prove a still more simple and more certain plan of treatment, at least in some cases—viz., the treatment by acupressure. I cannot but remember that six years ago I had the pleasure of reading before the Medical Society of London a paper, which was subsequently published as a separate essay. In this I advocated acupressure in certain operations upon the veins—a mode of proceeding which I had at that time practised for a period of seven years. In performing the operation for varicocele it had occurred to me occasionally to wound one of the branches of the spermatic artery, which was not controlled by the needles already introduced. Arterial hæmorrhage would then take place; but this was always commanded by introducing another needle, so as to compress the bleeding vessel. During this period a case occurred which left a strong impression on my mind that the action of arteries in other situations might be more simply and more effectually controlled by acupressure than by other means.

A young man had a wound in the palm of his hand, from which there was a copious hæmorrhage. Various attempts were made to secure the divided ends of the vessel. These all failed. The radial artery was tied, and the ulna artery was tied, and I believe ultimately that the brachial artery was tied; but however this may have been, the arm was at length amputated. It occurred to me that the hæmorrhage might have been restrained by means of needles passed through or underneath the bleeding vessels; and this I mentioned to a friend at the time before the amputation was performed. That such a mode of treatment might be effectual in similar cases has since been fully shown by Sir James Simpson's admirable work on "Acupressure as a Means of arresting Surgical Hæmorrhage."

I will now give a case in which I had an opportunity of putting this plan of treatment into practice in a case of traumatic aneurism.

Henry G——, aged nineteen, admitted into St. George's Hospital on the 16th of September, 1866. On the 9th of September he received a wound on the lower part of the left popliteal space from a sharp knife. The wound at the inner side of the leg passed obliquely outwards to the extent of an inch or more. There was a great deal of hæmorrhage at the time, but this was stopped by a handkerchief being tied round the limb. The handkerchief was allowed to remain untill the 12th, when it was removed, but again applied. There was not any hæmorrhage at this time. Having removed the handkerchief on the 16th, the bleeding recurred. He was now admitted into the hospital. There was a tumour on the lower and rather to the inner side of the popliteal space about the