

an uncomplicated recovery, and the tumor slowly diminished in size.

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NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH, B. M. A.

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REGULAR FORTNIGHTLY MEETING.

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FEB'Y 8th.

Present: Drs. Farrell (President), Tobin, Fowler, Trenaman, D. A. Campbell, Gow, Silver, Morrow, A. P. Reid, G. M. Campbell, Chisholm, Ternan, Anderson, Mader, Jones (Secretary).

Dr. Chisholm exhibited a specimen of aneurism of the transverse part of the arch of the aorta, which had burst into the trachea. The interest of the case centred in the obscurity of symptoms pointing to aneurism, more or less persistent cough of obscure origin, leading, before death, to suspicion of aneurism, which however was not detected by physical examination. Dr. D. A. Campbell had seen and examined the patient, and had noted a dullness over upper third of sternum, and that the breathing had an amphoric note indicating pressure on the trachea. There was evidence of bronchitis, yet careful examination failed to reveal any. He had detected no bruit in five cases of aneurism of the transverse portion of the aortic arch.

Dr. Ternan read a carefully prepared resume of important surgical cases occurring in various journals for the previous quarter.

Dr. Farrell mentioned the case of a man who fell from a load of hay, head foremost, to the ground. Did not feel hurt, but was paralyzed from about the waist. Breathing diaphragmatic.

Next day (when Dr. F. saw him) he was in a bad condition. There was a marked prominence between 2nd and 3rd dorsal vertebrae. Dr. F. thought the second vertebra was dislocated off the third; head and shoulders were bent forwards and to the right. Pro-

posed that extension should be put on. Temp. was 100°; refused to have extension put on. All some expected friend should arrive. Next day found him worse and evidently dying.

On Feb. 22nd, after a short discussion on diphtheria in Halifax, the members adjourned to the Queen Hotel and enjoyed a hot supper.

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#### THE MOST EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCE.—

The most unstable compound known to chemistry, and therefore the most explosive substance so far discovered, is chloride of nitrogen, which probably consists of three parts of chlorine united with one of nitrogen. Its terribly explosive character, which has so far prevented its accurate analysis, is due to the fact that it is a combination of one of the most active with one of the most inert elements in nature. It is a volatile liquid of brownish color and pungent taste discovered by the French chemist Dulong, who lost an eye and three fingers in the operation. Faraday and Davy experimented on it a few years after its discovery, protecting themselves with glass masks, which were in turn shattered by explosions of minute quantities of the dangerous compound. Faraday was stunned by the disintegration of a few drops which he merely touched with a piece of warm cement. There is but little danger of chloride of nitrogen ever being used for purposes of deliberate destruction, as its preparation on a large scale is practically impossible. Its explosive force is not known, for the reason that any attempt to determine it would probably prove fatal to the experimenters. According to some authorities, the more recently discovered compound of hydrogen and nitrogen, known as azoimide, is even more explosive than chloride of nitrogen, but this substance is still too obscure for a decisive judgment to be formed on the subject. — *Pearson's Weekly*.