

On admission, there was a large, egg-shaped, pulsating tumour, about the size of an ordinary fist (larger from above downwards than from side to side), situated in the popliteal space of the right leg. On applying the stethoscope, a distinct aneurismal bruit could be heard. The pulsation of the post-tibial artery was weaker than in the left leg.

On Nov. 2d. Mr. Holmes first commenced flexion of the limb for two days; but on account of the severe pain it caused the patient, it was discontinued, without any marked improvement having taken place.

Nov. 4.—Digital pressure was tried for fourteen hours; but this again caused such severe cramping pains, that it was discontinued. Some little deposit had, however, commenced in the sac, and the tumour was rather more circumscribed.

6th to 14th.—The tourniquet was applied for periods of from three to six hours daily, with marked benefit, the tumour being much more circumscribed and consolidation evidently going on.

16th.—The tourniquet was discontinued on account of the parts of the thigh becoming so lax and the artery so movable that it was constantly becoming displaced.

Various forms of compression were tried in succession, but none were found applicable. The patient then learned to compress the artery himself, but it produced no visible effect. Then the aid of fellow-patients, assisted by the students, was called in to compress the artery for twenty minutes out of each half hour during twelve hours per diem. At first this was thought to be producing coagulation rapidly; then the disease seemed stationary, but the bruit always continued as loud as ever. At length it became evident that the tumour was increasing in size along the popliteal space of the femur, and then it was determined to tie the vessel.

Accordingly, on Dec. 28th, Mr. Holmes cut down upon the femoral artery at the apex of Scarpa's triangle, and ligatured it with silver wire. The wound was sewn up with three silver sutures, the leg wrapped in cotton wool, and a bandage of flannel bound round it.

29th.—Pulse 126, thready. Passed a bad night. Leg painful; wound healthy; no pulsation in tumour.

30th.—Pulse 16; tongue cleaner; foot quite warm; no pulsation in tumour, which is smaller; slight redness and tenderness at the upper and inner border of wound.

31st.—Pulse 96; wound red, but not so hard or tender; foot warm; tumour smaller and more consolidated.

Jan. 2.—Pulse 88; wound probed, and a large quantity of pus let out; linseed poultice to be applied.

4th.—Wound nearly healed; no more pus exuding; tumour consolidated.