

Treatment consisted in making an incision over the protruding end of the septum and spine, denuding the soft parts, pushing them back, and amputating a half inch of the septum with one of the excising nasal forceps. The soft parts were brought together again and united by sutures.

This restored respiration, the good effect of which was seen by great improvement in the catarrh and also in the hearing.

CASE III.—W. H., of N.Y., aged 35 years, for whom I extirpated the bones of the nose, has considerable difficulty of respiration from extensive hypertrophy of soft tissue covering the inferior turbinated bones. The protecting nasal shield was put into the nostrils, and the hypertrophy removed by means of the galvano-cautery. Respiration began to improve immediately after the operation.

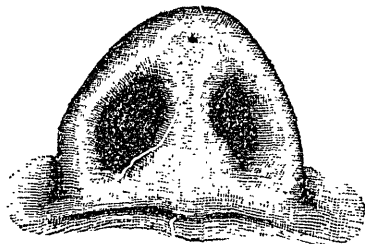


Fig. IV. At *a*. is seen the occluded nostril before the operation, and at *b*. the other nostril after the operation.

CASE IV.—Dr. L. de B. brings to me his wife, who is a fine singer. She is of that class predisposed to catarrhal troubles from all the mucus surfaces. Has not been able to use her voice in making clear nasal tones for some time.

Has a small pleuritic adhesion of the left lung behind, but, from the full distension of the lung in singing, the adhesion is so extended as to give very little trouble. There is hypertrophy of the soft tissue covering both the inferior turbinated bones, and breathing through the nose very much interfered with; considerable naso-pharyngeal catarrh, with slight ecchymosis of the left vocal cord. The hypertrophy was removed under an anæsthetic by means of the thermo-cautery.

After remaining under treatment for some time to remove the thickening produced by the stenoses she recovered her voice.

IDIOCY AND IMBECILITY NOT INSANITY.

A DEFINITION ON IDIOCY AND IMBECILITY.

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(Read before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, November 28th, 1879.)

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—The subject which I propose for your consideration, this evening is one which I trust you will find to be of great practical importance to every medical man. It is a medico-psychological definition and classification of Idiocy and Imbecility. I presume that you are aware that authors have classified these two states of the animal man under forms of insanity. Thus under the head of "AMENTIA" we find Idiocy, Imbecility and Dementia. Such a classification has led to very many unpleasant misunderstandings between medical men, between medical men and the bar and judiciary, and between medical men and the public. But this definition is not scientifically correct, for an idiot is not a weak-minded person, all imbeciles are not weak-minded, and, correctly speaking, not necessarily insane. Again although all demented are insane, yet all demented are not necessarily weak-minded. Then, whatever the state of the demented may be, he differs altogether from the imbecile, inasmuch as he has lost something from disease or accident that the imbecile never had. To comprehend me, it is necessary that you should recognise the established medico-psychological truth, that mind and body is one, because it is upon this fact that I base my classification. I do not think it necessary for me to use any argument, at this time, to prove to you this truth, suffice it to say, that we all, by our treatment of mental diseases, recognise that fact, for, as physicians, we don't pretend to treat anything more than matter, things relating to the natural order.

Upon these premises I would define all idiots to be congenital, and to be the very lowest order of the animal man, a thing void of a mental organization, having neither intelligence nor morality, and even possessing a very low animal instinct. Fortunately there are very few of such creatures born into the world, and those that are, generally die in childhood. We never