

age at death in insular districts was 41.55; in mainland rural, 35.31; while in the town populations it was only 24.69 years. Astonishing as these facts may appear to some, their astonishment will be further increased when we add, that by removing the small towns varying in population from 3 to 10,000, from the mainland rural districts, as should in all fairness be done in making these calculations, the real average of life in towns would be much shortened, while the true average for the mainland rural would be raised from 35.31 years, to 40.

This would shew that a residence in towns shortened every individual's life by about fifteen years, which additional years he would have enjoyed, if he had lived in a purely rural district. If the mortality of the towns could be brought down to that of the mainland rural districts, there would be an annual saving of thirteen thousand lives to the population of Scotland.

CASE OF DISLOCATION OF HUMERUS— UNREduced.

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In a late issue you say,—“We hope our friends will contribute the results of some of their failures and mistakes, as these are often more instructive than their successful cases.” I wish to relate then how I failed to reduce a luxation of the shoulder joint. On the 14th February, at 1 A.M., I was called to see W. P., printer, ætat. 24, who had dislocated his left shoulder during an epileptic attack. I found the patient but just recovering, and partly insensible to external impressions. On inquiry, I learned from his friends that this was the sixth time the shoulder had been dislocated under these circumstances. W. P. is a small man, of leuco-phlegmatic temperament, and without much muscular development, so that I anticipated an easy success, and more particularly as the system was in a state of extreme relaxation and prostration, after the epileptic seizure. On examination, I found the head of the bone lying upon the second rib, directly under the clavicle. Rotation was impossible, and manipulation gave great pain. I proceeded to reduce in the usual way, a movement and sud-

den snap gave reason for his father to exclaim:—“Oh! it is in;” but, however, I thought differently, and found that I was not mistaken. The attempts at reduction caused great pain and exhaustion to the patient, and being fearful of exciting another fit, I determined to desist till he somewhat recovered, there being neither pain or tumefaction. He slept about four hours; I then proceeded, with the assistance of two young gentlemen (medical students) to make another attempt, and we most signally failed, although the patient was beautifully under the influence of chloroform. The pulleys were then applied without success. Jarvis' adjustor was used without moving the head of the bone one line from its position, where it could be plainly seen and felt. During all this, time it must be remembered that W. P. was under the influence of chloroform, and the antagonistic muscles, soft and relaxed, apparently offering in themselves no opposition to the reduction of the bone. After six hours interrupted attempts, I determined to cease from any further efforts at reduction, and being unwilling to take the responsibility of this case alone, I requested a consultation. Dr. McLean, of this city, was called in, who examined the patient most attentively, and on being made acquainted with the history and treatment that had been adopted, advised that the bone should be allowed to remain in *statu quo*. In the mean time, the patient had awakened from his induced sleep, was perfectly sensible, and when asked if he had felt the violent extension that had been applied, said,—“Not at all.” The arm was now rotated with considerable ease, and without pain; W. P. expressed himself as—“all right,” and proceeded to imitate the process of type setting with both hands, which he performed with great dexterity. We now got from him a better and more detailed account of his case. It is about three months since his shoulder was last dislocated, it was reduced with difficulty after three or four hours of extension, &c. The next day he went to work, but the shoulder was not bandaged.

I can only form a conjecture on this difficult case. From frequent displacement and loss of nervous power on the left side, dependent on some diseased condition of the brain and spinal