

taneously, and carried my views into effect in the case of a gentleman who had both hands and lower part of the forearms frozen so severely that gangrene ensued. His constitution had much suffered from his exposure to intense cold during a whole night. A very able surgeon of this city was kind enough to amputate one arm, whilst I operated on the other at the same time. Chloroform was resorted to, but entire anaesthesia could not be produced, and our patient was conscious during the operation, but complained of no pain. The business was soon over, and the cure sufficiently rapid." After a description of the operation, Dr. Nelson thus continues, "Whenever the unfortunate necessity for the severance of both legs occurs I would by all means give the preference to simultaneous procedure, in order that the system may not be subjected to two distinct shocks."

Dr. Nelson seems to be under the impression that his operation was a maiden one of its kind: in this, however, he is mistaken. As he has omitted to give the date of his operation, I can only approximate time from his statement that "Chloroform was resorted to," &c.

The Synchronous Double Amputation was twice performed in this city, most successfully and satisfactorily, several years before the use of Chloroform was introduced; and the claim to priority in double simultaneous amputation belongs, I believe, of right to Dr. Morrin, our excellent and worthy Mayor. The first case in which the operation was performed was in the Spring of the year 1832. The subject was a shipwrecked sailor who had been severely frozen, and was a patient in the Hotel Dieu Hospital, and being in a fit state for amputation, the necessity being equal in both limbs, Dr. Morrin proposed the synchronous double operation, urging its expediency in terms similar to those used by Dr. Nelson. One of his associate Surgeons, however, opposed and denounced the experiment as cruel and unheard of, and declined even to witness the operation, but the other, the late Dr. Wm. Hall, concurring in Dr. M.'s views, the operation was performed with most triumphant results, among which were the comparatively slight nervous shock, the small loss of blood, and the rapidity of recovery.

The next case, of which I was a witness, was also at the Hotel Dieu, and as the success of the former operation had been so complete, the opposition of the gentleman before referred to was converted into approbation; Drs. Joseph Parant and Sewell again operated in 1837 with a success equal to the first case. The subject of this operation is now an inhabitant of your good city. His name is Portuguese, and he drives his tandem, thanks to the benevolence of your Mayor and Corporation. He may frequently be seen riding in dog-cart,—notwithstanding the law to the contrary,—and dealing in oysters.