

The *lathi* thrust up the rectum passed through the anterior aspect of the rectum, a few inches above the anus, tearing through the mesentery of the small intestines only in one place, and the diaphragm in front of the stomach, and entering the cavity of the chest in front of the heart, and the left lungs reached up to the level of the second costal cartilage. A small quantity of bloody fluid in abdomen was found. The stomach was herniated through the aperture in the diaphragm. The length of the *lathi* inside the body was twenty-three inches, its diameter being an inch.

The above presents one or two interesting points—

First, the extensive comminution of the bones of the skull, which shews that several severe blows with a heavy weapon must have been struck on the head.

Second, and the most striking feature, is the passage of the *lathi* up the rectum, traversing the pelvic, the abdominal, and the thoracic cavities and reaching as far as the second costal cartilage without injuring the intestines, the stomach, the heart, and the lungs in the least. There can be no doubt that a considerable amount of violence and force had been used, and that not less than two or three hands have been instrumental in the committal of the murder. Death, as would be expected, has very likely taken place within a very short time after the infliction of the injury, if not instantaneously. The protrusion of the stomach into the thoracic cavity suggests that this condition has been brought about either by the peristaltic movements of the intestines and stomach, or by the generation of the putrefactive gases having forced it through after death.

In conclusion, I have to say that this method of criminal infliction of injury and in such an extensive way is rather rare; no cases having occurred in this district during last 15 years or more.

BARABANKI (OUDH),
8th June 1891.

LARGE ABSCESS OF SPLEEN. TAPPED—RECOVERY.

BY HOSPITAL ASSISTANT Z. SUJAN SINGH,
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PULLIAH, Hindu male, shepherd, aged 40 years, resident of Kunnanur, Atmakur Taluq, Nellore District, was admitted into the Nellore Civil Hospital on 5th May, suffering from a large painful fluctuating tumour, situated in the splenic region, of about one month's duration. Patient states that he was treated by native ha-keems with mercury and other medicines with no good result; on the contrary, he grew worse daily until at length he sought admission into hospital.

He states that his illness commenced with

fever of continuous character for eight days, when he began to feel pain in the splenic region; a swelling formed and gradually increased, and the fever continued.

Condition on admission.—Patient very weak and emaciated. Has a large fluctuating tumour, the size apparently of a large cocoon in the splenic region, over which the skin is tense and shiny.

Temperature—Morning 100°

Ditto Evening 102°

Tongue dry and coated; gums ulcerated; fœtid breath; sordes on teeth; no appetite; bowels constipated.

Treatment.—Enema, fomentation on spongopiline; arrack one ounce every four hours; milk and broth.

R
Ammonia Carbonas grs. xx
Spiritus aetheris nitrosi... .. ʒss.
Decoctum cinchonæ ʒi
Mft.

ter die

R
Pulv. Doveri xx grs.
At night.

On the 9th May Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker, M.D., District Surgeon, saw the patient, and tapped the abscess with a middle sized trocar and canula, evacuating at that sitting 104 ounces of inodorous yellow pus; at the termination of the flow of pus a wooden plug was fitted in the canula, which was left in the abscess, being retained in position by strips of plaster, then covered with a large pad of cotton wool and bandage. The patient experienced great relief and refreshing sleep followed, and next day the temperature was normal. On the 11th instant the abscess had refilled, the plug was withdrawn from the canula and 80 ounces of inodorous pus flowed out; the plug was then restored, and cotton wool and bandage reapplied.

On subsequent days the pus evacuated measured as follows, *viz.*—

May 12th, 32 oz. pus.	May 17th, 3 oz. pus.
13th, 24 „ „	18th, 2 „ „ serum.
14th, 16 „ „	19th, 2 „ „
15th, 4 „ „	20th, 1 „ „ serum.
16th, 3 „ „	

Total amount, including the first and second evacuations, 270 ounces of pus. The plugged canula remained in all the time, and after the final evacuation of 1 ounce of serum Dr. Walker withdrew the canula and closed the wound with a horse-hair suture, with a bit of carbolised lint over; the wound closed at once, and the suture was withdrawn on the third day; all pain had disappeared from the region of the spleen. The temperature continued normal after the first evacuation of pus. He had diarrhœa for four days, after which his appetite greatly improved, and he put on flesh rapidly, and looked a different man at the end of 10 days.

He was discharged well on the 31st May.

NELLORE, 1st June 1891.