

One mace of prepared opium costs about 4d.; the wages of labourers and tradesmen range from 8d. to 1s.; the masters usually feed their workmen at the rate of 6d. per diem; the remainder goes to the family, leaving barely enough for the absolute necessities of life, and certainly nothing for a vicious indulgence; and yet opium-smokers frequently consume a quarter or half of their wages. The amount smoked not uncommonly amounts to or even exceeds the entire sum of wages, and it is staggering sometimes to learn how long this has proceeded. Everything will be disposed of—pawned; for a short time credit may be got at the rice-shop; friends and neighbours have their fountain of liberality and charity completely exhausted; the ashes or scrapings from the pipes of well-to-do smokers are implored or are given in charity, and when all these things fail, the smoker will sometimes start a brothel, and rents out his wife and daughters for purposes of prostitution, or he steals and robs to satisfy his inordinate craving.

One mace is equal to about one drachm. One candareen is equal to one-tenth of a mace.

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## Part Second.

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### REVIEWS.

*Reports in Operative Surgery.* By R. G. BUTCHER, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., Lecturer on Operative and Practical Surgery at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital.

WE have formerly on several occasions noticed favourably the valuable Reports in Operative Surgery which Dr Butcher has brought under the notice of the profession, more especially his late paper on a case of Refracture for Deformity in a case of badly united fracture of the femur.

The present, like all Dr Butcher's reports and clinical cases, gives evidence not only of the operative skill which was to be expected from a surgeon of Dr Butcher's well-earned reputation, but exhibits an amount of care and attention to the minutest details of the after-treatment which are well worthy of the consideration and imitation of younger surgeons. The cases are very graphically described, and profusely illustrated by beautiful lithographs from photographs of the patients before and after the operations.

The Report embraces cases of excision of the elbow-joint—removal of a large cervico-facial tumour—complicated harelip—united fracture, and a case of extensive fracture of the base of skull treated successfully. Our limits prevent us doing more than glancing at some of them.

To us, in this city, where excision of the elbow-joint has been so long established as the almost invariable operative procedure in disease of that joint, and where amputation is scarcely ever resorted to for such disease, it at first sight seemed almost strange that Dr Butcher should have taken the trouble to elaborate these cases of excision of the elbow, and dwell upon the propriety of the operation in similar cases in which the state of the soft parts give the diseased limb a formidable appearance; but if, as stated in the report of Captain ——'s case, amputation of the arm had been recommended by a London surgeon, this shows the necessity of reiterating what may seem acknowledged and obvious principles. Exceptional cases no doubt occur, in which, owing to the state of the health and involvement of other organs, amputation may be preferable to excision, but when the diseased condition is entirely localized and limited to the articular extremities of the bones, amputation is not warranted; in our own practice, out of a very large number of cases of elbow-joint disease treated and operated on, amputation of the arm has only been performed thrice. The method of operating by the H incision adopted by Dr Butcher is certainly inferior, in our opinion, to the long single longitudinal incision, which is not only attended with less disturbance of the connexions of the muscles around the joint, but also admits of passive motion being commenced early. The admirable results exhibited in Dr Butcher's cases show, we think, rather what may be effected under disadvantage by great care and skill, than what would be the general result of that method of operating.

The case of a successful removal of a large cervico-facial tumour is perhaps the most interesting of the present series of Dr Butcher's Reports.

The tumour in this case, originally of slow growth, had at last attained formidable dimensions, and from the description and illustrations, seems to have occupied the whole parotid and upper and anterior cervical regions, insinuating its lobules deeply amongst important structures, and yet admitted of complete removal by a carefully conducted operation; and the result was most satisfactory. We could have wished Dr Butcher had dwelt more upon the importance of the diagnosis as to the character of such tumours in reference to operation. At no very distant date we can recollect it being laid down as a rule by some surgical authorities that tumours situated under the sterno-mastoid should not be interfered with, and in a consultation on an enormous cervical tumour, we were referred to cases in which very eminent operators had been obliged to desist in attempts to remove such growths entire. But the cases referred to were evidently malignant growths in which there is almost never true definition, whilst simple tumours are clearly defined; and though their prolongations and relations to important structures are often close and require careful dissection, they never involve these structures. In the case alluded to, we decided

to operate, trusting to the originally simple character of the growth, and removed it with complete success. Since then we have operated on other similar tumours with equal success. But the case is different with malignant tumours, for not only are we never sure whether vital structures may not be implicated, but even when the tumours are removed, the results are unfavourable. In two cases in which we have departed from this principle with a view of giving a chance to the patient, though the growths were removed without injury to important structures, both patients died; one from sudden œdema glottidis, the other from unhealthy supuration amongst the tissues of the neck. These may seem to some accidental complications, but the kind of dissection and manipulation in these cases is very different from the operative procedure in the non-malignant growths, to say nothing of the cachectic state of the constitution tending to unhealthy action.

We would willingly have entered upon the other cases: the strange case of operation for harelip in mother and child, so graphically illustrated, both as regards the deformities and their successful treatment, the cases of ununited fracture, and fracture of the base of the skull,—all cases of great interest, and showing great skill and management in the treatment; but we think we have said enough to commend Dr Butcher's work to thoughtful perusal to those interested in surgery. The work is most beautifully got up, both as to printing and the artistic character of the illustrations.



*Traitement Rationnel des Plaies: Méthode d'Aération. Rapport de la Commission Spéciale du Traitement des Plaies à la Société de Chirurgie de Moscou. 10 Janvier 1877.*

THE treatment of wounds is one of the most fashionable subjects of discussion at the present time, and for the Russians looking forward to the mobilization of their army, and to a great war, it was then of a very vital interest. This pamphlet is the outcome of their deliberations; and it is a very clever, reasonable, and seasonable contribution to the subject. After a very careful and exhaustive examination of the arguments *pro* and *con*, and the results obtained by other modes of treatment, including the "pansement de Lister," the Society have unanimously recommended a method of treatment of wounds diametrically opposed in principle to that of Lister.

The spray and its results are carefully discussed, and Billroth's opinion is quoted,<sup>1</sup> that its use or absence makes no difference in the rapidity of putrefaction, while its inconveniences are great, and it tends to cause an immense effusion of serum from the wound.

After a consideration of the strange enigma which the genius of the West has not been able to solve, implied in the equally satis-

<sup>1</sup> Langenbeck's *Archiv*, Bd. xx.