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BOLD EXPLOITATION OF MODERN SURGERY.

Miraculous Performances of Surgeons Which Seem Almost Beyond Belief.

Two instances among the many seemingly miraculous performances of modern surgeons have recently seemed noteworthy enough to justify their finding a place in the telegraphic news of the day and being published far and wide in the newspapers.

One was the case of a patient in the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia who had suffered a serious laceration of the heart. The treatment, to be of any value whatever, had to be almost instantaneous, and fortunately for him his case was taken in hand without delay. He was put under the influence of an anaesthetic and three of his ribs were sawed through to make a sufficient aperture for the operation proper, and nine longitudinal sutures were put in the heart itself, which, it is expected, will heal "by first intention," giving the patient a new lease of life.

The second case, which in former times would probably have been classed among impossible performances, was that of a young girl in Pittsburg who had suffered a fracture of one of the bones of the leg in an automobile accident. The bone was set and a recovery was expected as a matter of course, but for some reason nature failed to go on with the usual knitting process and it seemed probable that the girl would remain permanently crippled.

The surgeon in charge, however, was a man of resources, and he devised a band of metal which was to be clamped about the two broken ends of the bone and left in position. This band or clamp he constructed of vanadium steel and fastened it in place with screws of the same material, so that the girl will go through life with a skeleton that is in part metallic.

A third case, the description of which appeared just after the two others, was that of an infant who had been borne club-footed and taken when only two years old to the Post-Graduate Hospital for treatment. The trouble is defined as a result of an insufficient number of bones in the foot, and has been commonly treated by cutting the ligaments and forcing the foot into a normal position, in which it is confined by metal braces, after which nature is expected to complete the cure. Satisfactory results have sometimes been attained in this way, but in a discouraging number of cases the result has been far from satisfactory and the surgeon who undertook this case resolved upon a new method.

Obtaining from Bellevue Hospital the bodies of two children who had been born healthy, but strangled at birth, he took from them two pieces of bone such as were needed to supply the lack in the feet of the deformed child. And these he put in position by the well known methods of bones transplantation. All that remained was to confine the feet and legs of the patient in plaster casts and await the knitting process of nature. This was done, and it is now expected that the child will be able to walk naturally in due time.

Remarkable as these accounts seem to the lay mind, it is worthy of note that they occasion no great surprise among surgeons, who indeed seem to be so accustomed to the working of physical miracles that nothing short of actually restoring life to a dead body seems likely to astound them. They serve, however, to recall the opinion of Napoleon Bonaparte, whose knowledge of all subjects of human interest has always been held to have been really marvellous.

He is quoted as saying that he had a poor opinion of medicine but the highest respect for the profession of surgery. And it is likely that he had as many opportunities to observe the practice of the two sciences as any one ever had, to say nothing

of his having provided more opportunities for such practice than any one else in modern times. It is therefore somewhat of the nature of the irony of fate that Napoleon III, should have succumbed to the second operation he underwent for stone.

Attitude of Surgeons.

The attitude of the surgical profession generally may be realized from the remarks of one of the most prominent members of it, who consented to talk on the explicit understanding that his name should not be quoted. Such a request is often made of newspaper writers, but not always in good faith. This time, however, there was no question of sincerity. Without the promise he positively refused to talk.

When the first of the cases cited above was called to his attention the great surgeon leaned back in his chair and smiled.

"It was a creditable performance," he said. "Not every man, even if he knew how, would venture to saw through three ribs to get at a man's heart and then take nine stitches in it to close up a wound. And not every surgeon who might attempt such an operation would succeed in performing it properly. The man who did it in Philadelphia, as you say somebody did, undoubtedly understood his business and is certainly entitled to credit for having done a clever job. There is no reason to suppose that the patient will not recover. If the surgeon did his work properly a recovery is to be looked for as a natural consequence."

"It seems to the lay mind, I suppose, a particularly sensational operation to penetrate the interior of a living human body and patch up by mechanical means one of the vital organs such as the heart, when it is seriously lacerated. And of course in the case of the heart it seems very much more serious and sensational by reason of the fact that death is inevitable in case the action of that organ is suspended for any considerable time. But even an operation of that sort is to be considered as a routine matter in the experience of a skilled surgeon."

"It is perfectly easy to get access to the heart by cutting through to it and even sawing the ribs, as is said to have been done in the case you cite. Then when it is laid bare all the surgeon has to do is to take it in his hand and put his stitches in quickly. It is only a great muscle, and the stitching does not compare in difficulty with much that is done in other cases. Of course the heart will wiggle, and he will have to hold it very firmly, but there is no danger in that. He may even grasp it so tightly that its natural action will be suspended for a few seconds without serious results, and a few seconds are all that he will require for his stitching if his technique is sufficient for the operation. All depends upon the technique of the operator, and such an operation as this makes no such demands as are made in a large variety of other cases."

"What would you class as the great achievements of modern surgery?" he was asked.

"Well, there are several branches in which surgery has made great advances in modern times," he answered. "One of these is undoubtedly gallstone surgery. The excision of stone has been practiced for many centuries, but it was only when the stone was located in the bladder that the surgeons of the olden times were able to accomplish cures. They were able to reach a stone then with comparative ease and to remove it with safety. They even practiced the crushing of the stone itself before removal in cases when it was not deemed advisable to make an aperture sufficiently long to allow of its removal without crushing, and that treatment was practiced centuries ago, but it is only in modern times that instruments have been devised with which the crushing can be done without making an artificial opening."

"It is only fair to say," he continued, "that this last process does not seem to have justified it-

self. The result too often fall short of a complete cure, and in my own practice I do not resort to the crushing process any longer."

Great Advances Made.

"But the actual progress made in this branch in modern times is in the line of gall stone surgery. Within comparatively few years we have ventured to use the knife in these cases and have had great success. Kidney and gall stones are now removed, whereas there was formerly no real cure known for such troubles."

"Another great advance has been made in the line of intestinal operations, and I would say that it is in cases of this kind that the surgeon has the opportunity to exercise the highest technique that has been attained. To enter the abdominal cavity is a simple matter. There is no difficulty encountered, and provided the operator understands what are now regarded as the elementary principles of surgery there is no special danger to be apprehended. But it is after the entry has been made that the high technique is essential."

The enthusiasm of this man, distinguished as he is in his profession, is fairly matched in another direction by the admiration Dr. James J. Walsh of the Fordham Medical School entertains for the surgery of the ancients.

"I do not undertake to say that there is nothing new in surgery. Undoubtedly there are new things. Gallstone surgery is new. But much that is commonly called modern was well known to the ancients and has been rescued from oblivion only within a few years. We have no monographs of the ancient surgeons in which they might have detailed their great achievements, but we have their text books and we know much of what they did. Many of these text books were published in the Renaissance and afterward forgotten, but within the last few years they have been brought to light again in France and Germany."

"We know that the ancients had their varieties of anaesthetics, one of the main inhalant, by the use of which they could reduce the patient to insensibility and so make an entry into the skull, the thorax or the abdominal cavity without causing such a shock that the patient would be unable to endure the operation. And we know that they were well acquainted with one of the best antiseptics that have ever been in use up to the present time. They used strong wine, which modern practitioners admit is an excellent antiseptic; and by using it they avoided the after-effects of their operations, which without such use would have been fatal."

"They were well acquainted with the operation of trephining in times of great antiquity. They operated for stone in the times of the Pharaohs. I have myself seen stones of over four inches in diameter that were taken from living patients in those days. And one of the maxims in a text book they used is proof enough of the practice they followed in intestinal cases. The rule was 'If the intestine is lacerated it must be sewed up. Otherwise the patient will die.'"

"Then the very name of the Caesarian operation is proof enough that one of the most delicate feats of surgery was known to the ancients."

"But the subject is inexhaustible. I could talk all day of the wonderful achievements of ancient surgeons, but if any one is interested in the subject the best I can do is to refer him to a book I published last year entitled 'Old Time Makers of Medicine.' There he will find concrete instances of what they knew and what they accomplished."

The fall and winter style books and samples of material are now ready for your inspection. Coats, suit suits and dresses to suit your taste and purse, something to please every body. Call and examine style books and samples even if you are not ready to buy. I want you to see my line. Call at Earp's Store.

Yours truly,
Cora Earp, Agent.

WHO CAN VOTE IN STATE PRIMARY.

Democratic Executive Committee Finally Settles the Question.

Raleigh, N. C., Friday, 20.—The morning trains carried many committeemen to their homes thoroughly tired out and in a variety of moods over the outcome of the practically all-night session of the State Democratic executive committee in thrashing out the problem of the construction of "Democratic ticket" as prescribed by the State convention rules on who shall participate in the Senatorial primary.

Everybody concedes that the Hackett resolution that the executive committee finally adopted and failed to modify in any way, that the "Democratic ticket" means all nominees of the Democratic party for office, is the liberal construction of the term, but it is the consensus of opinion that there should have been some modification to admit some degree of scratching if the fullest possible vote for the general Democratic ticket, as well as the fullest real Democratic sentiment for Senator are expressed at the polls. It was the disagreement as to where this line of scratching the ticket should be drawn that made it impossible, after two hours of effort on the part of the special committee of friends of the three candidates for Senator, that blocked all suggestions at agreement for some scratching to be permissible.

Leaders for each of the three candidates are insisting that while the resolution does not exactly suit them they can put up with it all right.

Senator Simmons' leaders declare that they have proven to the Democracy of the State that they are not trying, as some have charged, to run in a lot of Republicans and override the real choice of the Democracy for Senator.

Governor Kitchin's supporters and those of Chief Justice Clark are saying that under this resolution national Republicans certainly cannot come in and control the selection of United States Senator, as they claim might have been the case with the bars down as to voting the national Democratic ticket. They say, however, that there should have been some license to scratch in a limited degree the State or local tickets.

There are varied surmises as to the probability of another called meeting of the executive committee at a later date to try and adjust the rule so as to permit a reasonable amount of scratching. The meeting of the executive committee lasted from 8:45 o'clock this morning and between those hours several resolutions and amendments were offered and discussed pro and con, but the final result as stated was the adoption of the resolution of former Congressman R. N. Hackett without any modification.

Notice to Members of Farmers Union.

Surry Co. Farmers Union will meet in the Court House at Dobson N. C., on Thursday evening October 3rd, 1912 at 8 o'clock, and Friday October 4th. Let every member who possibly can be there. This will be the most interesting and important meeting yet held in the County. Every member in good standing whether a delegate or not will be admitted and allowed to participate in the proceedings of the meeting. Once more I want to see the Court room full of men ready to do their part in the great struggle we are now engaged in to better the conditions of the tillers of the soil. Please do not disappoint me! I shall expect you.

Fraternally,
J. Thos. Smith,
Pres. Surry Co. Union.

What We Never Forget

According to science, are the things associated with our early home life, such as Beckler's Anicura Salve, that mother or grandmother used to cure our burns, boils, scalds, sores, skin eruptions, cuts, sprains or bruises. Forty years of cures prove its merit. Unrivaled for piles, corns or cold-sores. Only 25 cents at Peoples Drug Co.

ALLEN AND EDWARDS' TRIAL.

Wesley Will Be Given First Hearing Beginning Oct. 23, on Indictment Charging Murder of William M. Foster, Followed by Allen Case for Killing of Judge Massie.

Hillsville, Va., Sept. 23rd.—Judge Waller R. Staples, of Roanoke convened the Carroll county court at 7:30 o'clock this morning for the purpose of arraignment Sidna Allen and Wesley Edwards, the last two of the Carroll outlaw clan to be tried for the part played by them in the shooting up of the court house here on March 14, last. Owing to the early hour in which court assembled the people from the country districts had not arrived. The people of the town, however, were out in full force to see the men plead at the very bar which they were instrumental in destroying a little over six months ago.

Wesley Edwards was arraigned on the indictment alleging the murder of Commonwealth's Attorney William M. Foster, it being the same on which Floyd and Claude Allen are under sentence of death, and on which Friel Allen and Sidna Edwards were given 18 and 15 years respectively in the penitentiary. He entered a plea of not guilty.

Sidna Allen was then arraigned on an indictment alleging the murder of Judge Thornton L. Massie, to which he pleaded "not guilty." By special agreement of attorneys for both sides, a change of venue to Wytheville was ordered by Judge Staples. Wesley Edwards will be the first to be tried, and Monday, October 28, is the date set for the beginning of the trial.

At the end of Edwards' case Sidna Allen will be placed on trial for his life. It is thought that both men will know their fate before the execution of Floyd and Claude Allen, on November 22. Court adjourned at 9:30 o'clock, and the detectives, with the prisoners, left Hillsville for Galax by private conveyance, expecting to arrive there by noon when they will get a train for Roanoke. The prisoners will arrive in Roanoke on train No. 2, where they will be held in jail until the trial of Edwards, the latter part of October.

The prisoners arrived in Hillsville yesterday afternoon under guard of about a dozen Baldwin detectives, headed by Chief W. G. Baldwin, of Roanoke, assisted by H. H. Lucas, the two having made the capture of the outlaws in Des Moines.

It is understood here that Governor Mann had ordered that every precaution be taken to prevent any outbreak against the prisoners or to preclude any possibility of their escape, and it was for this reason that such heavy guard was maintained.

The commonwealth at the arraignment this morning was represented by J. C. Wylor and John S. Draper, of Pulaski, W. S. Poage of Wytheville and S. Floyd Landreth, of Carroll. The only attorneys appearing for the accused men were Judge N. P. Oglesby of Bristol, and C. Francis Cooke of Roanoke, the latter representing Wesley Edwards, he having been appointed by the court. Mr. Cooke is a member of the firm of Cooke and Cooke of Roanoke. The attorneys left Hillsville this morning, as did Judge Staples, who is desirous of reaching Roanoke this evening at the same time of the arrival of the prisoners.

The word of their coming to Hillsville had preceded them and on their arrival here there was an immense crowd to greet them. The utmost order prevailed and the men were placed immediately in the county jail, where they were guarded night and day by detectives.

Application for Pardon.

On October 1st, application will be made to the Governor of North Carolina for my pardon. All persons opposing my release are requested to make it known to the Governor.
Hubert Willis.

FINAL TRIBUTE TO DEPARTED EMPEROR.

As Gun Boomed at Sundown, Japan's Great Military Leader Drew Sword Across His Throat

Tokio, Sept. 13.—Count Nogi, supreme military councillor of the Empire and his wife Countess Nogi committed suicide tonight in accordance with the ancient Japanese custom as a final tribute to their departed Emperor and friend, Mutsuhito.

The death by their own hands of the famous general and his wife was as dramatic as it was sad. The general cut his throat with a short sword and the countess committed harikari.

Following the Samurai custom the corpse had carefully prepared their plans for killing themselves and timed them so that they would be co-incident with the departure forever from Tokio of the dead Emperor.

Make Final Preparations.

General Nogi and the Countess had attended the funeral services of Mutsuhito at the palace here today and it was expected that they would proceed to Aoyama tonight with the cortege. Instead, however, at the conclusion of the ceremony at the palace they withdrew to their modest home in Akasaka, a suburb of Tokio, and there began their final preparations for death.

First the general wrote a letter to his new Emperor Yoshito, which was found beside his dead body. Then he draped in mourning a portrait on the wall of the late Emperor and afterwards he and his wife dressed themselves in full Japanese costume and drank a farewell cup of sake from cups which had been presented to the general by Mutsuhito.

Darkness had fallen and General Nogi and the Countess sank and awaited the signal they had agreed upon to announce their leave taking. This was the booming of a single gun in the palace grounds at Tokio which was to let the people know that the body of the Emperor was starting on the funeral car for its last resting place.

Was Great General.

General Count Nogi was a national hero in Japan. It was he who captured Port Arthur from the Russians in 1904 and assured the success of his country in the battle of Muckden. The Count was born at Hagi in the province of Choshu in 1849 and was the eldest son of Marotsugu Nogi, a Samurai of the Choshu clan.

During the Saigo rebellion Nogi fought bravely at the battles of Yamaguchi and Tawarazaka and was wounded and after the rebellion was suppressed he was made a lieutenant colonel. He commanded the first brigade of infantry in the Chino-Japanese war and captured Port Arthur in one day. On the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war in 1904 General Nogi was appointed commander of the Third army. His forces took 203 metre hill after terrible slaughter and also destroyed the Russian squadron in the port. General personally received General Strossel's proposal to surrender Port Arthur.

The First Dentists.

Harper's Weekly.
Dental therapeutics dates from a very remote epoch. It is not known when this art commenced, but it is well known that the Egyptians practiced it to a considerable extent.

On a papyrus scroll estimated to date back 3,700 years before Christ, which was found buried at the feet of the good Anubis, there were found written remedies against painful molars and a way to alleviate other troubles of the teeth by means of pulverized drugs. The art of "filling" is very remote. Egyptian mummies have been found with molar cavities very carefully closed. Others have artificial teeth which show that in very ancient times this dental process was known. The Chinese cured toothache 2,700 years before our era. One of their methods was to put iron rust in the cavities.

Despondency

Is often caused by indigestion and constipation, and quickly disappears when Chamberlain's Tablets are taken. For sale by All Dealers.