

whether he wished Mr. Maunder to interfere, he said he did not; that on being still further pressed by Mr. Maunder to say whether he had any objection to his interference, he said that, if Mr. Maunder interfered, he must do so on his own responsibility. He had received instructions to send for me, and he was going to act upon them. With regard to these statements, I may say that I believe them to be perfectly truthful, and that, on the other hand, I was at that time quite willing to believe that Mr. Maunder had acted for the benefit of the patient. At all events, I should have regarded the matter in this light, but that on the following morning my house-surgeon showed to me a letter which he had received from Mr. Maunder, requesting to be furnished with the notes of the case and the specimen of ligatured artery, without making the slightest reference to my own wishes on the subject. I therefore wrote a note to Mr. Maunder, stating that he could see the notes of the case when I had finished with them, but that he could not have the specimen; at the same time, I asked him if he would kindly let me know whether any necessity existed for my instructions being set aside. The answer to the note came through the lay authorities at the hospital. At the beginning of the long vacation, I was asked to meet two prominent lay governors, and then found that I had been accused by a colleague, whose name was withheld, of some professional delinquencies, the nature of which was not made clear to me. The whole communication was so vague, that I had no means of discovering what it was that I was accused. At that time, therefore, I did not attach much importance to it, but I determined to treat it with the contempt it deserved. I learnt, subsequently, that the charges were of a really serious kind—that I had been denounced as incompetent; that some of the lay authorities had carried these charges to two of the senior members of the staff, men of the highest honour and integrity; and that these charges had been investigated, so far as they were capable of investigation without reference to the accused surgeon, and were found wanting in the elements which would satisfy a jury. Nevertheless, so much prejudice was created by the denunciation by a great operator of his more obscure colleague, that the proposal was seriously entertained that at the annual re-election of officers to the London Hospital I should be quietly dropped out of the staff, and this on an *ex parte* statement made behind my back by one who had taken a mean advantage of his acquaintance with a member of the House Committee to endeavour to oust from his appointment a gentleman with whom he was personally at variance, and in whose dismissal he was professionally and pecuniarily interested.

Time brings the truth to light. At a recent court of inquiry held at the London Hospital on my professional conduct, owing to a repetition of the course of action pursued against me, one of the charges proved to be that I had treated an aneurism as an abscess. The only evidence which could be offered was, that some one had ordered a poultice to be applied to the shoulder. What my views really were, I have stated in the preceding narrative of the case; and I may add here that, wishing to obtain absorption of the effused blood, I had, of course, abstained from ordering warm applications, and I had equally abstained from ordering ice, in order that I might not lower the vitality of the skin of an aged patient.

Writing now with the piece of artery before me, and with the full light of the whole history of the case, I find it difficult to determine whether the vessel was ruptured in the first instance, or whether it was severely bruised and subsequently gave way. At the outset, the swelling of the shoulder was in no wise greater than I have often seen in other cases of injury in the same region. The opening in the artery is of a valvular character, occupying about one-third of its calibre, and it is pretty certain that, if torn at the time of reduction of the dislocation, it was plugged by the clot which formed, and was felt by myself at the base of the axilla opposite the injured spot. Those who have a real acquaintance with these injuries know how rare they are, and how peculiarly liable practitioners are, either to consider that there is a ruptured artery when none exists, or to believe that it is not injured when it has really been so. In proof of these positions, I would refer to a very valuable paper by Mr. Callender in the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports*, and also to a paper most pertinent to the subject in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of the 6th of January last, from the pen of Mr. Campbell De Morgan. The view which I took in this case was similar to that which Mr. De Morgan adopted, more correctly, in his own. I believed that I had to do with a simple, though copious, ecchymosis, and I hoped that by perfect rest the blood would gradually be absorbed. I thought, as he did, that "it was not the axillary which was implicated, as the radial pulse was natural, and there was no pulsation, which generally, but not universally, attends the blood-tumour formed through the rupture of a main vessel."

Now, although not convinced, yet I am perfectly willing to admit that I formed a wrong diagnosis of the case. Granting that, was I

wrong in my treatment, not to interfere in such an unfavourable case until interference became really necessary? It was stated to the lay authorities that I had improperly delayed an operation for a month, and it was with reference to this case that the complaint was made; and the operation, which it appeared that I ought to have performed at once, was to ligature the subclavian artery. Had this been done at the end of May, the patient would not have lived for forty-eight hours. As it was, he lived till the 7th of July. Let me once more quote Mr. Campbell De Morgan's paper: "Now we know very well that, so long as the skin is sound and the air does not reach the contents of the bag of effusion, all may subside without any unpleasant consequences. We have had within the last few years two or three cases of simple fracture, where there was large and rapid effusion of blood beneath the skin, with marked aneurismal pulsation, in which, however, arrest of the hæmorrhage ensued spontaneously and complete absorption took place, although it was clear that a large artery had been torn through. In the present case, then, I hoped that by the means adopted we might get cessation of bleeding, coagulation of the blood already effused, and ultimate absorption." "Seeing how favourably cases of subcutaneous hæmorrhage will terminate, even when we are sure that a large artery is involved, it is not good surgery to lay open at once a large cavity containing blood; still less would it be right to lay open these cavities hastily when there is no evidence of an artery being wounded at all."

There are two distinct lines of surgery—the one characterised by great caution and careful selection of cases; the other by a disregard of the condition of the patient and attention only to the narrow rules of mere operating practice. To follow the latter course is easy, and to condemn those who choose the former is easier still. Easiest of all is it to take advantage of a colleague's errors, and of personal acquaintance with lay authorities to misrepresent his actions and bespatter his reputation; but whether it is better to be the victim of calumny or the perpetrator, may be safely left to the candid judgment of the profession at large.

#### GUARANA A REMEDY FOR SICK-HEADACHE.

By SAMUEL WILKS, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician to Guy's Hospital.

I WISH to draw the attention of the profession to *guarana* as a remedy for sick-headache, and at the same time to ask for the experience of those who may already have some acquaintance with the drug. My own knowledge of it dates about two years back, when, after the appearance of a lecture of mine upon sick-headache, I received a letter from Mr. Helmcken, of British Columbia, enclosing two powders which he recommended to me with much confidence as able to cure the complaint. He said that, having heard much of the remedy, "I resolved to try the medicine upon one of my patients who was always coming to me with sick-headache; and sure enough it acted like a charm; and in place of suffering for twenty hours or so, the headache had disappeared in a couple. This accords with what others have told me." Upon my first headache after the receipt of Mr. Helmcken's letter, I took the powder, but with only doubtful effect. I therefore did no more than casually mention the medicine to my friends, but did not recommend it. A few weeks ago, after the appearance of a second communication of mine in the JOURNAL upon the same complaint, I received a letter from Dr. Wood, of Montreal, in which he also recommended "*guarana*" as a remedy for headache, and gave a history of his own personal sufferings and the relief which he had obtained. He says: "By taking one of these powders and remaining quiet when I have felt premonitory symptoms by a beginning of pain always in the right temple (headache on the other side, or in any other part of the head, I never mind), I have carried off the attack; and, with the first box, absolutely put it off for two months—something which had never occurred in my life before." Upon so good an authority, I determined to try the remedy in a more systematic manner, and requested my neighbour, Mr. Hooper, the chemist, to procure me a packet of the powders. These I have recommended to several patients and friends; and the result is so encouraging, that I have hastened to suggest their trial to my professional brethren. One lady speaks most enthusiastically of their power, as she has now, on two separate occasions, had her headache arrested by their use. The drug has long been known, for mention is made of it in English and French pharmacologies, but appears never to have come into general use. It consists of the seeds of a tree growing in Brazil called *Paullinia sorbilis*; and these, according to Johnstone, in his *Chemistry of Common Life*, are used as we do cocoa. The seeds are ground into powder, and contain an alkaloid which is said to be identical with that found in tea and coffee. The medicine is manufactured by Grimault and Co., No. 7, Rue de la Feuillade, Paris.