

A synopsis of medical & surgical cases, at the Sheffield General Infirmary during twenty-two years / by Robert Ernest.

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A
SYNOPSIS,
&c.

With the Author's respects.

SYNOPSIS

METHODS & PROCEDURE

CASES

SYNOPSIS

THEORY & PRACTICE

THEORY & PRACTICE

ROBERT KIRK, M.D.

LECTURES ON THE HISTORY OF THE HUMAN MIND, DELIVERED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, 1892-1893.

1894

A
SYNOPSIS

OF
MEDICAL & SURGICAL
Cases,

AT THE
SHEFFIELD GENERAL INFIRMARY,

DURING
TWENTY-TWO YEARS.



BY
ROBERT ERNEST, M. D.

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT, AND
HOUSE SURGEON TO THE SHEFFIELD GENERAL INFIRMARY.



1820.

SYNOPSIS

Cases

FOLLOWING STORIES

ROBERT ERNST, D.D.

1830

THE AUTHOR

TO THE
Physicians and Surgeons,

AND TO THE
EXTRAORDINARY SURGEONS,

OF THE
SHEFFIELD
GENERAL INFIRMARY,

THE
FOLLOWING SYNOPSIS

IS INSCRIBED,

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT,

BY THEIR OBLIGED,

AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

TO THE

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

AND TO THE

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EXTRAORDINARY SURGEON

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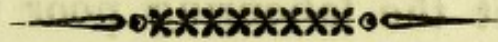
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INTRODUCTION.



THE Writer, having held the Office of HOUSE SURGEON ever since the first opening of the Infirmary, and having witnessed the admission and the diseases of all the Patients, has long been desirous of drawing up this **SYNOPTICAL STATEMENT OF MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CASES**; and though there may be nothing particularly interesting in it, yet it has cost him much labour during six months, in having to explore five large folio volumes of the Register of Patients, each page containing thirty cases, and often as many different diseases; so that he had as frequently to carry his pen to the different letters of an alphabet previously prepared for the purpose. This done, he had afterwards all the diseases to count up separately, and to class and arrange them in their present order.

INTRODUCTION.

The **SYNOPSIS** is intended to exhibit at one view, not only the whole of the Admissions during **Twenty-two Years**, but the most prevailing Diseases amongst the labouring poor in this populous town and neighbourhood. It will also shew the nature and number of Accidents that have been admitted at any hour in the night or day, without any recommendation ; and likewise it will shew the ratio of Medical and Surgical Cases.

There is also appended to the **SYNOPSIS**, explanatory Notes, taken chiefly from the Writer's own observations in practice.

AT THE
SHEFFIELD GENERAL INFIRMARY.

[illegible]

a. Two took *Aridium Sulphuratum*, and the other took *Arenaria*.
 b. The Writer has not been able to close these diseases according to Written, as they were not entered in the Register, particularly in his biological terms; but in 311 cases there were many of the various species of eruptive disorders. And besides these 311 cases, there will be found mentioned separately, in the Synopsis, Elephantiasis, Erysipelas, Erythema, Lepre, Pemphigus, Pueri Frangit Sordis, Tinea Capitis, and Urticaria.
 c. Many of these were very extensive contused, lacerated, and some gun-shot wounds, requiring immediate amputation.
 d. Vaccinated by the Writer since the year 1822.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS	
Vaccinated	18,461
Medical Cases	12,471
Surgical Cases	7,395
	38,327

The Ratio of Medical and Surgical Cases, is somewhere about Five of the former to Three of the latter, on the average, exclusive of those who apply for vaccination.

38	Abacassus
	_____ cerebri
	_____ oculi
1	_____ passas
4	Amurosis
	Amenda
32	Amorphos
	Anasthesia
	Anaurina
	Angina pectoris
	Anus imperforatus
10	Aphonia
97	Asclites
1150	Asthenia
578	Asthma
7	Anthrax
191	Bronchocele
62	Bubulus

63	Cancer
2	Lingua
25	Mammae
13	Nasi
5	Oris et Labii inferioris
4	Penis
5	Palpebrae inferioris
8	Scroti et testicul
19	Uteri

171	Cachexia
218	Caries
60	Cataracta
1	Catlepeia
12	Catarrhus
319	Cephalaea
69	Chlorosis

OBSERVATIONS.

It appears from the SYNOPSIS that the following Diseases are the most prevailing amongst the labouring poor in Sheffield and its neighbourhood, viz. *Rheumatismus, Scrophula, Ulcus, Asthenia, Phthisis, Dyspepsia, Asthma, Tussis, Ophthalmia, Hydrops, Hernia, Gastrodynia, Amenorrhœa, Paralysis, Abscess, Cephalœa, Caries, Febris, Lum-bago, Pleurodynia*, and *Vitia Cutis*; and in reference to ACCIDENTS, *Contusions, Fractures, Wounds, Burns*, and *Scalds* are the most frequent.

During the first six or seven years after the opening of the Infirmary, there were many dreadful Accidents admitted from the Grinding Wheels, caused by the breaking of stones whilst running with great velocity. In these cases there was generally great injury done to the face and nasal bones; and in several instances, such injuries were accompanied by fracture and depression of a por-

tion of the skull. In consequence of some wise regulations in the Grinding Wheels, the writer has pleasure in saying that such terrible accidents have for many years past been comparatively rare.

There has also been several very severe Accidents from the Rolling Mills. Two cases, one of which was a leg, and the other an arm, which had been drawn in betwixt the rollers, and were nearly torn off from the body. In two other cases, the integuments, beginning three or four inches above the elbow joint, were torn down over the fingers, like a glove. In these cases the parts were drawn back into their proper situation, a great portion of which united by the first intention, and in the end the patients got well. One patient had Anchylosis of the joint.

There is another case of lacerated wound which I cannot let pass without notice, because the favourable event surprised me exceedingly:---A man of a spare habit, 66 years of age, who had laboured under Anchylosis of the left knee joint some years, went, on the 16th of October, 1802, to see a cricket match played, and he being in the

midst of a crowd of people who were present on the occasion, was suddenly pushed forward, and not being able to recover himself, he fell with his lame knee bent under him ; by which accident a lacerated wound was inflicted, which laid open the joint completely from the inner to the outer condyle. There was much hæmorrhage, but neither ligature nor compress could be applied to any advantage ; and therefore the actual cautery was applied to the bleeding vessels, and the hæmorrhage soon ceased. The wound was then closed and dressed superficially, and afterwards secured by the many-tailed bandage, and the limb placed in such a situation so as not to admit of the least flexion of the joint. I have the case in detail, but on this occasion it will be sufficient to state, that the wound in ten weeks was almost well ; and the man, by his own desire, left the house as an out-patient.

There have been many punctured Wounds admitted, but only one that proved fatal. In February, 1812, two Grinders' apprentices were quarrelling, and in the scuffle, one of them, holding in his hand a scissor blade, struck it with great violence into the thigh of his antagonist, and

wounded the femoral artery a little below the middle of the thigh. Three weeks had elapsed since the wound was inflicted, before he was admitted into the Infirmary, at a period when it was too late either to tie the artery or to amputate the limb. By frequent hæmorrhage and maltreatment, the patient was greatly exhausted, and the whole limb was beginning to shew signs of gangrene. He only lived five days after his admission.

Amongst the cases of Mortification, there was one very remarkable case of Necrosis of the whole leg and foot. The limb became dry and much shrunk, and as black as ink. The place of separation was immediately in the knee joint. The patient afterwards underwent amputation of the thigh, and was cured.

There have been admitted many cases of Tumours; I have the particulars of one case of large dimensions, which was situated about the middle of the inside of the right thigh, of a stout muscular man. I judge this to have been a case of what is now termed Fungus Hæmatodes. When he was at the Infirmary in February, 1810, the tumour measured

in circumference $42\frac{1}{4}$ inches, longitudinally 32 inches, and transversely $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches. After death it measured in circumference 45, longitudinally 24, and transversely $38\frac{1}{2}$ inches; and it might weigh from ten to twelve pounds, or more.

Another Tumour of this character was situated upon the right humerus, and extended downwards almost as far as the elbow. It was a case similar to that represented by a plate in Mr. CHARLES BELL'S CASES IN SURGERY, and the disease was too much connected with the shoulder to admit of an operation. However, an incision was made down to the bone, which proved that the bone had been absorbed, and that a cartilaginous substance merely, was remaining.

The case of Ascites before noticed, which required the operation of paracentesis performing twenty-three times, the examination which took place after death, if I mistake not, proved it to be an individual case of Ascites Mesentericus; for the material cause of the disease appeared, on dissection, to be that part of the mesentery which supports the colon simistrum or descendens, elevat-

ed into a Tumour, weighing eight pounds, partly Scirrhus, partly Apostemous ; the consequences of which, more or less remote, were an adhesion of the convex side of the liver to the peritonæum ; an adhesion to that part of the lesser intestine near the Tumour to the peritonæum, and the surface of the peritonæum itself, to be covered with the coagulable part of the pus, where it touched the Tumour. The total quantity of water taken from this patient amounted to 1414 pints, $\div 8 = 176$ gallons 6 pints.

Many other remarks might be brought forward upon other interesting cases ; but this being quite unnecessary on the present occasion, the writer here concludes what he intended to présent to his medical friends.

Infirmary, }
MAY 20, 1820. }

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