

**OBSERVATIONS ON CONTRACTION OF THE
FINGERS (DUPUYTREN'S CONTRACTION) AND
ITS SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT BY
SUBCUTANEOUS DIVISIONS OF THE PALMAR
FASCIA, AND IMMEDIATE
EXTENSION. ALSO ON THE OBLITERATION OF
DEPRESSED CICATRICES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649660025

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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WILLIAM ADAMS

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OBSERVATIONS

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OF THE PALMAR FASCIA, AND IMMEDIATE EXTENSION.

ALSO ON THE

OBLITERATION OF DEPRESSED CICATRICES

AFTER

GLANDULAR ABSCESSSES, OR EXFOLIATION OF BONE

BY A

SUBCUTANEOUS OPERATION.

BY

WILLIAM ADAMS, F.R.C.S.,

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With Four Plates and Numerous Engravings.



LONDON:

J. AND A. CHURCHILL, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

1879.

160. e. 192.

P R E F A C E.

IN the Essays now published I have given a description of two subcutaneous operations for the successful treatment of affections not generally considered to be amenable to any surgical means, viz. : "*Dupuytren's Contraction of the Fingers,*" and "*Deeply Depressed Cicatrices,*" such as are frequently met with in the neck and other regions of the body, as the result either of glandular abscesses or exfoliation of bone.

In proof of the general distrust in all operative procedures for contracted fingers, I may state that in nearly all the cases which have fallen under my observation in private practice, the patients have been deterred from submitting to any operation by the opinions of several surgeons that the fingers if straightened would remain stiff and useless, or worse than useless, for life, in consequence of the tendons having been divided, an event which I have shown cannot possibly occur in the operation advocated in the present paper.

The patients have in many instances been told that as the contracted fingers are still useful in grasping, they should wait until they had become useless by

increase of the contraction, and then take the chances of an operation. Now that the curability of this affection, without any loss of muscular power has been proved, the error of delay will be at once apparent.

The results of mechanical treatment, and of the operation by open-wound have not been such as to inspire any general confidence.

The subcutaneous operation and after-treatment, as modified by myself in accordance with the pathological conditions first demonstrated by Dupuytren, has proved so successful, that I can with confidence recommend it to the favourable notice of the profession.

I first brought the results of my experience before the Medico-Chirurgical Society in a paper read on the 22nd of May, 1877, but this paper was not published by the Society in their "Transactions;" a short abstract of it only appeared in the "Proceedings" of the Society, Vol. VIII., No. 4, July, 1877. The paper, as read at the Society, and without any alterations, was, however, published in the "British Medical Journal," June 29th, 1878, and is now with considerable additions reproduced in its present form.

With regard to the subcutaneous operation for deeply depressed cicatrices, I first brought it before the notice of the British Medical Association in a paper which I read at their meeting in Edinburgh in August, 1875; and it was afterwards published in the "British Medical Journal," April 20th, 1876. It seems, however, not to have attracted the attention of operating surgeons so much as I could have wished,

and I have therefore reproduced it with additions, in its present form, in the full confidence that results equal to those which I have obtained would follow its more general adoption.

The two operations, now described, possess one feature in common, viz., that they are both good examples of the success which attends all true subcutaneous operations, and in their freedom from all danger which might result from inflammation and suppuration, illustrate the protective influence of the law of subcutaneous surgery.

Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square.
September, 1879.

