

**A RECORD OF THE SURGICAL CLINICS OF
WM. TOD HELMUTH, M.D., HELD AT THE
N.Y. HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL
COLLEGE DURING THE SESSION OF 1874-
'75; TO WHICH IS ADDED A SYNOPSIS OF
THE CLINICS OF 1873-'74; PP. 11-207**

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PHILETUS J. STEPHENS

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To

The Faculty and Trustees

OF THE

New York Homœopathic Medical College

THIS WORK

IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BY

PHILETUS J. STEPHENS.

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P R E F A C E.

DURING the last session of the New York Homœopathic Medical College the undersigned was often struck with the brilliancy of the Surgical Clinics, and then determined, if he were spared another term, he would publish these Clinics, not only for the advancement of the college in which they were delivered, but for the good of the Homœopathic cause generally. The method of conducting the lecture is as follows: the patients are sent from the Dispensary to the Amphitheatre and are introduced one by one to the class.

There is not any selection of cases, or opportunity afforded for the lecturer to examine the patient, make up his diagnosis, select his remedy and prepare what apparatus is best; and for these reasons the author has endeavored to give the record in full, that the Clinics may appear, not dressed up with rhetoric and illustration, *but as they really took place*. The author also desires, at the request of Prof. Helmuth, to state that he (Prof. Helmuth) was unaware that these Clinics were being reported *verbatim* as they fell from his lips, until the session was almost over, and then he was for the first time made aware of the fact by the printed proof sheets being presented for his inspection.

The author conceived that by keeping the matter entirely private during the term that he could more certainly offer to the students, the faculty of the college and the public the method in which Clinical Surgery is taught in the New York Homœopathic College, which, he conceives, has no superior in this country.

PHILETUS J. STEPHENS.

We must find out exactly where this fracture is. In the first place I support the hand and turn it in this way (supinating). Now, I know very well that the neck of the radius is not broken, because if it was the head of the bone would not move between my fingers. If the head of the radius were broken off I could not move it in the way that I am now doing.

The next thing we do is to lift the hand up in this way (illustrating). Then I feel for the olecranon process on the other side of the elbow, and I find that it is intact.

This boy has a fracture of the *external condyle*.

When you come to diagnose fractures about the elbow be extremely careful about your prognosis. There are frequently suits for malpractice on account of fractures about the elbow. There has been a recent case at Paterson, concerning which I have been consulted. Therefore I say that in the treatment of fractures about the joints you must always be exceedingly careful how you give an opinion.

I will remark in respect to this patient that he will have a pretty quick recovery, but that he may have stiffness in the joint. The reason for that stiffness I will explain to you hereafter, when we come to understand the process of repair, and the inflammatory action which results from an injury of this character. Inflammatory action may extend itself into the cavity of the joint, and a certain amount of plastic matter be effused, which will result in spurious ankylosis.

In a case like this the best dressing is a posterior rectangular splint. You can make it out of a segar box.

The chances for the recovery of this child are better than they would be if he were older. There will not be so much likelihood of trouble at the joint.

It is a question with a great many surgeons as to whether a bandage should be applied next to the skin before putting on a splint. Of course, there are many who say that a bandage should be so applied, and give as a reason that, while it controls muscular action, it also affords an equable and even support to the part. That is all very true in its way. On the other hand, those who are in favor of the non-application of a bandage next to the skin give it as their opinion that it certainly arrests the circulation. No matter how lightly the bandage is put on, the circulation may be arrested; therefore, it is a matter which is open