

LUXATIONS IN PARTICULAR.

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There are several instances where the luxated ribs have retained their dislocated situations without any hurt; therefore, where the symptoms are not very urgent, and the head of the rib but little displaced, it is most adviseable to let it remain so.

After reducing a Luxation of the Rib apply a compress wet with sp. vin. camph. and the napkin and scapulary; bleed, keep the body soluble, and observe a thin diet.

The Spinal Vertebræ cannot be displaced without a fracture of their intersecting processes, and without the utmost hazard of the patient's life; because the medulla spinalis, being compressed or wounded, will produce a palsy of the parts below; whence it is evident that these Luxations are no less dangerous than difficult to reduce: in order to which, the patient is to be laid, when the vertebral processes are displaced on both sides, inclined over a cask or other cylindric body, but inclining more to the sound side, if they are displaced only on one side; while in the mean time an attempt is made by the fingers to replace them; which done, a compress is to be applied wet with sp. vin. camph. and then a paste-board splint retained by the napkin and scapulary.

The Os Coccygis may be luxated either outward or inward; the former is occasioned by a hard birth only, and therefore seldom happens. When it is dislocated inward, which most commonly happens by some fall, blow, or other violence, you are to dip your finger in oil and introduce it into the anus, and the other fingers being applied externally, reduce the bone into its proper place.

Os Coccygis.

place. When it is luxated outward, replace it by your fingers applied externally; and after the reduction, compresses are to be retained upon the part (first wet with *sp. vin. camph.*) by the T bandage, and the patient is to lie on one side or the other alternately; or if he sits, it must be in a chair with a hole in the bottom, to prevent any displacing of the bone again by pressure, as before directed in fractures of this part.

Thigh.

A Luxation of the Thigh Bone happens but seldom, for the round head of this bone is so strongly articulated into the deep acetabulum by the round and capsular ligaments, secured by very thick incumbent muscles, that it is almost impossible for it to be dislocated by any force, without a previous relaxation, or a tumor of the mucilaginous gland lodged in the cavity; from whence, and from the friability of the neck of the femur, as also from innumerable dissections of bodies thus affected, it is evident that the femur happens to be fractured in its neck nineteen times for one dislocation; so that what is commonly taken for a dislocation of the femur, is in reality a fracture of its oblique neck. Yet it must not be denied, that in weak, cachectic and scorbutic people, and in infants or children, and sometimes, though very rarely, in robust men, the femur may by some violence be dislocated, and that most commonly downward, and inward or forward towards the opening in the os pubis; in which case the knee and foot straddle outward and backward, the diseased appearing longer than the sound leg; the head of the bone is also perceptible below the inguen, where, by compressing the nerves of the bladder, it sometimes causes a suppression of urine,
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