

The Irish Nurses' Association.

On Tuesday evening, 15th, we had a very instructive lecture on "Fractures," from Surgeon de Courcy Wheeler, at the Association's rooms, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin. He always lectures very well, and therefore we had a full room. He commenced by saying that up to quite recent years there was little or no advance in the treatment of fractures; in fact, the natives of Uganda knew as much as most others, and their *régime* would be the same—splints—for the most part. An old writer named Ambrose Parey, in the preface to his book on Surgery, written in 1579, said he had studied the subject of fractures for fifty years, and that the treatment as laid down by him was so complete that nothing was left by posterity to improve!

Poor Ambrose would be surprised now to hear that posterity were preparing in many cases to do without splints altogether. The lecturer dwelt a good deal on the subject of "open" operations in plenty of cases, especially where union of bone was difficult, and told us of the benefit it was. He also spoke of how surgeons generally are allowing freedom of movement once all pain in the parts has ceased, and gave as an authority Lucas Championnière, of Paris, who advocates the movements of the ends of the bones. Of course, massage takes a leading place now with fractured bones. To us old stagers, when we remember our awful fright in bad fracture cases, lest they budge the one-eighth of an inch in the bed, this seems astonishing, but in medical matters we have become used to surprises. Certainly the end justifies the means, and if better adhesion and sounder limbs ensue, by all means let us have movement. What a boon in the case of little children! He said that the advent of X-rays had revolutionised and enlightened the whole realm of fractures. Another mode since poor Ambrose's time is that blood is now injected straight into the seat of the injury, which helps to form callus. He talked with admiration of Mr. Arbuthnot Lane, of London, who, although much laughed at, has stuck to his point for twenty or thirty years, in advocating these newer methods. Practically speaking, so far most cases of so-called healed fractures have good reason to remember their injuries; they are very seldom without the reminder, such as rheumatic pains, swelling, and frequently shortening of the parts. Mr. Wheeler had brought many photos, X-rayed, as well as the various plates and screens now used in "open" operations, to show us.

V. R.

An Illustrious Chirurgeon.

Amongst the treasured possessions of the Editor of this Journal is an old volume, printed in 1684 by Thos. Cotes and R. Young, of London, of the works of that famous Chirurgeon, Ambrose Parey translated out of Latine and compared with the French, by Th. Johnson. The Author's Epistle Dedicatorie, "To Henry the Third, the most Christian King of France and Poland," dated Paris 8th February, Anno Dom., 1579, shows this most illustrious surgeon as a polished courtier and man of affairs. The catalogue of his works, 29 in number, show the scope of his stupendous researches and learning:—

1. An Introduction, or compendious way to Chirurgery.
2. Of living creatures, and man's excellency.
3. Of the Anatomy of man's body.
4. Of the vitall parts contained in the chest.
5. Of the Animall parts placed in the head.
6. Of the Muscles and Bones, and other extreme parts of the body.
7. Of Tumors, contrary to nature in general.
8. Of Tumors, contrary to nature in particular.
9. Of Wounds in generall.
10. Of the green and bloody wounds of each severall part.
11. Of wounds made by Gun-shot, and other fiery Engins, and all sorts of weapons.
12. Of Contusions, and Gangreenes.
13. Of Ulcers, Fistulaes, and Hæmorrhoides.
14. Of Ligatures and Bandages.
15. Of Fractures.
16. Of Luxations, and Straines.
17. Of diverse affects of the parts not agreeable to nature, whose care commonly is performed by the hand.
18. Of the Gout.
19. Of the Laes Venerea (these words, in large type, proving how serious in the estimation of the great Parey are its ravages), and those Symptomes that happen by reason thereof.
20. Of the small Poxes and Measels, and also of Wormes, and the Leprosie.
21. Of Poysons, and of the biting of mad dogges, and the stinging and biting of venomous creatures.
22. Of the Plague.
23. Of the Art to repaire those things which are defective, either by nature or accident.
24. Of the generation of man.
25. Of Monsters and Prodigies.
26. Of the Faculties of simple medecines, together with their composition and use.
27. Of Distillations.

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