

This patient is still an in-patient in hospital, and is daily improving; no local treatment is applied to the affected joint. With reference to the "blue line" on the gums in this case, I consider it is of importance, as it clearly proves that natives, who have not a natural coloured-condition of their gums (due to a pigmentary deposit within their substance) do, as a matter of fact, shew the "blue line" as a sign of this disease. So far as I have observed there is no change in the pigmentary deposits in the gums of natives who suffer from scurvy.

PESHIN, S. AFGHANISTAN,

The 22nd May 1887.

## A Mirror of Hospital Practice.

MAYO HOSPITAL, NAGPUR.

A CASE OF ABDOMINAL INJURY.

BY BRIGADE SURGEON J. BARTER,  
*Civil Surgeon, Nagpur.*

THE case of a man who was run over by a tram-car on the night of the 26th of March last, is given on page 742 of the *Lancet* of the 9th of April. The man was brought to St. Thomas' Hospital, where the dresser "made a careful examination, and failed to discover any thing beyond a small scalp wound, two abrasions on the back, and another on one of the legs." The patient was quarrelsome, could not answer questions coherently, presented no signs of shock, and was in a state of semi-intoxication. Dismissed by the dresser, he was taken to the police station, where he was very noisy and vomited frequently. In the morning he complained for the first time of pain in the epigastrium, but left the station by himself. He died the same evening.

The *post-mortem* revealed a small rupture of the duodenum and a slight rupture of the liver. It does not seem clear whether the case was reported with a view to draw attention to the dresser's action in telling the police to take the man away without having reported the case to the House Surgeon or to point to the absence of grave symptoms in so serious a case.

The following case, parallel in some respects, in which the injuries were far more severe, presented symptoms for two hours at least, or up to the time she left the hospital, not more severe than those exhibited by the London patient.

A girl of four years old was run over by a light pony-cart about 2 P.M. on the 6th of May; she was brought a distance of two miles to the Mayo Hospital, and was seen by the

hospital assistant on duty, who, not being able to discover any injury, sent for the senior hospital assistant, and he also, after careful examination, failed to satisfy himself that the child was suffering from a severe injury. The child cried a little when moved, vomited a little, but did not seem to be in much pain when left undisturbed, and exhibited no symptoms of shock. The parents took her away before the House Surgeon reached the hospital. Four hours afterwards the child began to sink, and she died ten hours after the accident occurred.

A *post-mortem* examination was made by me the following morning. There were some very minute abrasions over the region of the lower dorsal vertebræ, but no other marks of violence were found on the body. The cavity of the abdomen was filled with blood. There was a rent in the liver commencing at the edge of the left lobe near the left lateral ligament and extending inwards for more than an inch, embracing the anterior and posterior surfaces and intermediate substance. The duodenum was completely detached from the stomach, as though it had been cut clean off at the pyloric extremity; the latter organ contained about two ounces of partly digested rice; the duodenum was empty. The peritoneal lining of the abdominal wall covering the injuries was congested a little. The lungs were deeply congested, and the right and the left auricles of the heart contained large clots.

The child was evidently thrown on her back, the wheel of the cart passing over the right and left hypochondriac and the epigastric regions, leaving no external marks of injury, owing to the yielding nature of the parts. The stomach, however, being nearly full, and the duodenum nearly empty (the accident occurred less than two hours after the meal), the flaccid gut was wrenched off from the more rigid stomach at the pylorus.

The narrative helps to illustrate how serious an injury may exist without causing symptoms indicating the gravity of the case—a subject so ably dealt with by Sir William McCormack in his oration recently delivered before the Medical Society of London.

## ANEURISM OF AORTA WITH RUPTURE OF SPLEEN.

By R. J. POLDEN, M.B.,  
*Civil Surgeon, Chittagong.*

IN June 1887, the body of a native (Mahomedan) called Jinnat Ali, about 60 years, was sent in for *post-mortem* as he had been found dead in his house.

After inquiries elicited the information that deceased was a cultivator; that lately he had become old and infirm, and so had taken up shepherd's work. The body was found in