

April 1835

/55v cont'd/ Wednesday April 1st.

The weather has quite changed – very beautiful today – quite as warm as one w^{ld}. ever /56r/ wish. Went down to the Hotel Dieu – followed M. Chomel this morning. I like the manner of questioning patients which Physicians have at Paris – there is so much system¹ with them. Very superior to the method of the English Physicians. There can be no doubt that Paris is a most admirable school for learning both departments of the profession scientifically. Saw two or three interesting eye diseases at Sanson's Consultation Gratuite. Breschet has nothing particular except another case of Varicocele under treatment. The man who was burnt is very poorly – the head of the fibula and external condyle of femur are denuded – the poor fellow will die if they don't alter their treatment. The dressing they employ is the simple cerate & the only diet is a little soup & half a portion of bread – this will never support his strength under a copious & long continued suppuration. M. Breschet seems to entertain some opinion of amputation. Today at ~~Le~~ Sichel's we were overwhelmed with cases of Amaurosis – a very difficult disease to recognise in its early & curable stage, as well as to benefit by treatment. We had one exceedingly interesting case, in a fine young woman – there had been two cataracts – M. Roux some years ago operated on them, in the left eye by extraction, in the right by abaissement.² The former was followed by chronic Iritis, effusion of lymph & secondary capsular cataract. The lens in the right remounted³ – he then extracted it – violent Iritis followed, producing obliteration of pupil – he then formed an artificial pupil, which enabled the pat^t. to distinguish the light, but not to see to conduct herself. A secondary capsular cataract has also formed here. M. Sichel intends trying the artificial pupil again. Having /56v/ first destroyed the second^y cararact. M. S. said that the reason why M. Roux's operat^{ns}. were so frequently followed by this accident, was that he did not break up the capsule sufficiently – confining himself solely to forming a hole large enough to allow of the escape of the lens. Guersant was on the operation of tying carotid & iliacs. Obtained my certificate this morning from Chomel.

Thursday April 2nd.

Weather exceedingly warm. Went down to Roger this morning – nothing new, except one case in which on left side were heard aegophony – souffle – dull sound on percussion – on right natural respⁿ. – excessively loud resonance of the voice, & at the very lowest part some aegophony. What can be the cause of the resonance I cannot imagine – it is louder than I almost ever heard before. Sound on percussion good & resp^y. bruit natural. Listened again in the case of pregnancy – c^{ld}. not detect the pulsations of the foetal heart & the placental as

¹ See Introduction, pp. 11–14, for comment on system in French medicine.

² Abaissement: a form of couching for a cataract in which a needle was inserted through the coats of the eye to displace or lower the opaque crystalline lens below the axis of vision. Sometimes the cataract was not couched whole but was broken into many pieces.

³ The couched lens must have risen following the initial *abaissement*.

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well as the aortic souffle much less than before. Roux has two or three good cases in his female wards – one a tumor on the breast, I think, fatty – and another, a tumor of considerable size on the upper lip – apparently vascular, either erectile tissue, naevus⁴ – aneurism by anastomosis or something of the kind. No pulsation – becomes much fuller when she speaks or contracts her muscles. Breschet has nothing particular – intends amputating the leg tomorrow of the man with burns. Probably this is the best plan, as it w^{ld}. take an immense /57r/ time to fill up the space left by the falling of the ~~the~~ sloughs – the man may sink under the discharge – or if he recovered, he w^{ld}. probably be unable to use his joint as the tendons have sloughed. At Sichel's today, there were several cases of Blepharite Glanduleuse⁵ – his treatment was alteratives⁶ internally, leeches now & then to the temples, occasional purging & red precipitate ointment⁷ twice a day. Saw an enormous spherical staphyloma today completely preventing closure of the eyelids. S. intends to operate in the course of a week.

Friday April 3rd.

Went down to Hotel Dieu this morning – nothing particular under Roux except a fracture of the radius – the case in which he performed the operation of uniting the two edges of a lacerated perinaeum, going on very well. Breschet performed today amputation of the leg in the case of burn – they are extremely particular in Paris to take up every, even the most trifling artery, which bleeds – in accordance with this plan. M. B. applied 6 or 7 ligatures – there was an artery of the bone which bled a little – this of course c^{ld}. not be tied. M.B. therefore introduced a small plug of wax, which had the effect of stopping the bleeding. At Sichel's all old cases. Guersant on tying the artery of the leg & foot.

Saturday 4th.

Went down to Roger's today – only one new case in which there were distinctly pneumonic sputa – but no stethoscopic sign except dullness on percussion & feeble respiration. No crepitass [*sic*] r le or resonance of the voice. Beschet's patient better this morning – scarcely any /57v/ fever. Roux reduced a dislocated elbow in a boy of   6 months standing. He also operated on the breast of a woman in his ward – there was a tumor above the mamma half the size of ~~the~~ an egg – integuments red – feeling rather soft than hard, and almost like demifluctuation⁸ – does not appear very adherent to the tissues underneath. It is of three months standing. She complains of lancinating pains – in axilla is an enlarged gland – also painful. M. Roux removed the tumor first with a considerable portion of

⁴Naevus: a natural mark, spot or blemish. It could include what are termed birth marks, said to be caused by maternal longing during pregnancy for items such as strawberries, grapes, etc., which these blemishes were said to resemble. (Hooper, *Lexicon*, p. 868.)

⁵Properly *bl pharite glanduleuse*, an inflammatory condition – commonly called a sty (from the Saxon word for rising, springing up) – of the small glands on the inner margin of the eyelid.

⁶Alteratives: substances which bring about change and re-establish the healthy functions of the body without producing evacuations such as perspiration, purging or vomiting. Iodine was seen as a powerful alterative.

⁷Red precipitate ointment contained mercuric oxide and was used for external treatment of conditions of the eye.

⁸Fluctuation: term used by surgeons to express the undulation of a fluid; thus when pus is formed in an abscess or abdomen and is lightly pressed with the fingers, the motion of fluctuation may be distinctly felt.

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skin which covered it & some of the pectoral muscle underneath – to which it was attached. After tying the arteries, he removed the gland from the axilla – dressed both wounds with strips of adhesive plaister & as usual in Paris, covered the parts with an immense q^{ty}. of charpie, enveloped them with various compresses bandages &c. this appears to me the great mistake into which the French surgeons fall – they endeavour to obtain union by the first intention & yet they induce suppuration by the warmth of their dressings. This is a point of very great importance. M. R. did not say of what species he considered the tumor – it w^{ld}. appear by the 2nd tumor, appearing in the axilla, to be malignant – it c^{ld}. not be cancer – it was too soft & was not situated in the gland. Was it Encephaloid? It seemed scarcely soft enough for that. I don't know what to consider it – it was of rapid growth, only 3 months since it first appeared.

/58r/ Sunday 5th.

Went down to Roux's this morning at Hotel Dieu – nothing new – attended at [sic] R. de Bouloi twice.

Monday 6th.

Went down to Hotel Dieu this morning. M. Roux for the first time bandaged the case of fractr^d. radius brought in on Thursday. Breschet's case of amputation going on very well – wonder he did not dress it today. He has this morning an extraordinary case – a man has had a tumor in the back for four years. It commenced with a small hardened gland in the posterior part of the axilla – since then it has gone on increasing, occupies now a considerable portion of the axilla, more than half the scapula & a portion of the posterior part of the thorax. It hangs down nearly to the Iliac Crista⁹ – at its point it is ulcerated to about three times the size of a crown piece.¹⁰ The whole of the tumor is hard & unequal to the feel – very heavy & numerous veins considerably enlarged & engorged with blood are scattered over the whole surface. B. proposed an operation – to which the man consented & I presume it will be performed in a few days, tomorrow morning probably. At his Clinical lecture today M. Roux proposed to operate on two boys affected with hydrocele – the tumor in both was very small, not containing more than ½ an ounce of liquid I sh^d. imagine. Was it necessary in these cases to perform the radical operation – w^{ld}. it not have been much better to try the power of nature in producing absorption aided perhaps by counter irritants¹¹ &c. applied locally? M. R. introduced the trocar,¹² withdrew the liquid, & /58v/ injected &c. very well in the first case – but in the 2nd. he completely failed from some reason or other, I don't know what. He introduced, or tried to introduce the trocar, but no liquid followed & the boy was sent back to his bed! Two or three very good cases at Sichel's, particularly one of

⁹ Iliac Crista: crest of the ilium – the upper dorsal edge of the pelvic region. Thus the tumour in this patient is now extending across the back from almost the shoulder to below the waist.

¹⁰ He was probably referring to the English silver coin, 3.8 cms in diameter and worth 5s., rather than the French gold crown, few of which were in circulation.

¹¹ Counter irritant: a medical application used to produce irritation on the surface of the body in order to counteract disease of more deeply-seated or distant parts; or irritation artificially produced in order to counteract the action of disease. (See February 27, note 73.)

¹² Trocar: instrument consisting of a three-sided point or perforator at the end of a metal tube and used for tapping a cavity such as in dropsy or, as in these cases, hydrocele. (Hooper, *Lexicon*, p. 1231.)

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cataract, in which there was some doubt as to whether the opacity was situated in the lens or in the posterior capsule, on account of adhesion of the iris to the cornea & consequent increase in the size of the posterior chamber. Guersant was on absolutely nothing of consequence today. I do not like him much. I wish Robert had lectured at the same hour – I w^{ld}. have taken [*sic*] him. However I suppose I shall have what I entered for, Operational Surgery. I am sorry to find today that the English Ministers are beaten on some question relating to the Irish Church.¹³ It is a pity, I think, that they sh^d. still keep office – they are only making their party appear weak & contemptible & affording their adversaries more opportunities of triumphing over them. They cannot do the things they w^{ld}. to relieve the country on account of the factious opposition they meet ~~went~~ with. Hence surely it w^{ld}. be better to give up the reins of Government, & wait patiently in retirement, 'till times are changed. We are in a most & critical situation. I don't know what to think of the portentous aspect of affairs. I only hope that Providence will watch over us & defend us from our numerous enemies. Ireland is certainly doomed to be a perpetual torment to us.¹⁴

/59r/ Tuesday 7th.

Went down to the Hotel Dieu with Roux. Nothing in his wards – but a number of operations today. M. Sanson first removed the testicle in a case of sarcocele¹⁵ – he did it very neatly & cautiously, commenced the incision a little above the abdom^l. ring & cont^d. it down to the bottom of the scrotum. He then enucleated¹⁶ the testicle & cut the cord very slowly & gradually, tying every small artery, as he went along. He applied six or seven ligatures – this is not the most showy, but I sh^d. think decidedly the safest method of managing. The cord cannot then slip into the canal, as has occasionally happened. M. Roux then performed the operation for reducing the gland in paraphimosis¹⁷ by cutting in two or three places the bridle of skin & afterwards making three or four incisions in the swollen mucous memb^e. – the gland was then easily reduced. After this M. R. removed a cancerous breast in an old woman upwards of 50 y^{rs}. old – this tumor was of 3 y^{rs}. growth. At its summit was a deep, nasty foul ulcer, & in the axilla was an enlarged gland. Taking all things into consideration, I do not think it was a proper case for operation – however he thought otherwise & performed it – I hope it will turn out well. After this he operated on 4 cataracts, all by extraction – in one case on both eyes. He is the nicest, the most dexterous operator on the eye I have ever seen.

¹³ See January 14, note 88.

¹⁴ During the late eighteenth century, Ireland, both ruled and exploited by the English, who owned 80 per cent of the land and were often absentee landlords, had become a problem once more. The majority population were Roman Catholic peasants subjected to political, social, religious and educational discrimination. But the struggles of the Irish were not spearheaded by the Catholics. The Protestant minority, Anglican and Presbyterian, had sympathised with the American War of Independence, and were inspired by the French Revolution to seek their own self-determination and independence. Pitt had desired religious equality between the Protestant and Catholic communities and Fox, in 1797, had prophesied that failure to achieve this would lead to civil war between the two religious groups. The 1798 uprising almost fulfilled this prophecy. (Evans, *Modern state*, pp. 115, 121.)

¹⁵ Sarcocele: any fleshy swelling of the testes.

¹⁶ To enucleate: to remove a tumour or, as in this case, an organ from its capsule.

¹⁷ Paraphimosis: constriction of the penis by a retracted and too narrow prepuce which makes a sort of ligature called a corona. Hooper suggests possible causes including venereal disease, and non-surgical treatments. He acknowledges that surgery may be necessary to avoid, for example, gangrene. (*Lexicon*, pp. 935–6.)

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At Sichel's were some admirable cases, particularly one in which there was a varicose state of the choroid with some Iritis & commencing Gl[au]coma¹⁸ in the right eye. The left was already destroyed by the same disease – in the latter it had existed 15 y^{rs}. in the former 7 y^{rs}. – treatment antiphlogistic.

/59v/ Wednesday 8th.

Went down to Roux's this morning – he dressed the woman whose breast he removed on Saturday last. He stuffed the wound full of charpie, covered it afterwards with several layers of charpie & over ~~all~~ this placed three compresses double & upon these a bandage de corps¹⁹ also doubled – Heaven defend me from coming under the hands of such surgeons during the Dog days²⁰ – Sanson had three operations for cataract by “Abaissement” – was close behind him, when he performed one, saw every motion of the needle – first time I have seen this operation near – he has a case of stone in the bladder in a boy – he discovered it today – there is a case in the wards of diffuse phlegmon²¹ of the arm from bleeding, 50 leeches were applied last night – & this morning the arm was kept in a constant warm bath – much better – the case of varix of the leg in which Sanson made use of B's inst^t.²² applied to the vena saphena²³ just below its entrance into the femoral, is quite cured – tomorrow S. applies the same method to the treatment of another case of same kind – At S's consultation was a young ch^d. with naevus of the cheek – he did not say, what he intended to do. Saw a curious treatment of diseases of the eye, particularly amaurosis & cataract – it consisted in applying to the two temples & forehead a little Ointment of Ammonia²⁴ – & then injecting cold water from a powerful syringe on the face generally. I can easily imagine the use of the cold water, but I cannot think what is the use of the Pommade as it does not remain on two /60r/ minutes. At Sichel's today an interesting case of ~~varic~~ cirsocele²⁵ varicose state of the vessels of the

¹⁸ Glaucoma: dimness or obscurity of sight from an opacity of the vitreous humour. It was difficult to “ascertain” and required very careful examination of the eye. It was attributed to cloudy secretion of the vitreous humour or to torpidity of action in the absorbents that carry off the fluid from the cells of the vitreous substance. (Hooper, *Lexicon*, p. 623.)

¹⁹ Bandage de corps: a special bandage for use over large areas such as the breast.

²⁰ Dog days were known from ancient times and referred to the rising of the Dog Star (Sirius) which coincides with the hottest and most unwholesome period of the year.

²¹ Phlegmon: an inflammation of a bright red colour with a throbbing and pointed tumour which tends to suppuration such as a boil or abscess.

²² B's inst^t: Breschet's instrument, which Warren described but did not witness Breschet using. See April 17, note 38.

²³ Venae saphenae: two large veins in the leg – the internal one is long; the external is short.

²⁴ Ointment of Ammonia: unguent ammoniacal, as used in German hospitals, contained, according to Milne-Edwards and Vavasseur, ammonium carbonate and oil of jasmine and was recommended to be rubbed in three or four times a day in the case of enlargement of the breasts, but they make no reference to its use in treatment for conditions of the eye. (*Nouveau formulaire*, p. 110.)

²⁵ Cirsocele: circocele or dilatation of a vein to form a tumour. (The diarist had actually corrected his initial and acceptable alternative spelling “circocele”). When occurring in the spermatic veins, this condition is referred to as “varicocele”. Hooper provides guidance on distinguishing between a cirsocele and omental hernia for which it is sometimes mistaken. The patient is to be placed in a horizontal position and the swelling emptied by pressure upon the scrotum. The fingers should then be placed firmly upon the abdominal ring (see November, note 204) and the patient asked to rise. If the swelling is a hernia the tumour cannot reappear as long as the pressure is continued at the ring but if the condition is a cirsocele the swelling returns with increased size on account of the return of blood into the abdomen being prevented by the pressure. (Hooper, *Lexicon*, pp. 383–4.)

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choroid, simulat^g. if not really producing staphyloma of the choroid – the cause was disappearance of haemorrhoids – treatment, application of leeches to the anus, purgatives &c. – Guersant on amputations.

Thursday 9th.

Went down to the Hotel Dieu this morning – very glad, tho' I did not at first intend to do so, as I felt very poorly – Sanson had one of the best operations, that I have seen since I have been in the profession – as there were but ~~very~~ few students present – I managed to get a good position & observed all the processes of the operation – for the cure of deformity of the face – considerable portions of the cheek, lip & nose were gone – felt poorly all day – sore throat & little cough – so after breakfasting in a café – returned home & did not go out again – very hot – sat all day with my window open & c^{ld}. scarcely bear the heat even then.²⁶

Friday 10th.

Went down to Hotel Dieu with Roux – the case in which he united the laceration of perinaeum nearly well – the two edges at present entirely adherent – went round afterwards with Sanson he did not examine the little girl on whom he operated yesterday – used the actual cautery in a malignant ulcer of the arm which has been in the wards a long time – Breschet removed the larger tumor, which I ment^d. some time since it extended from the hollow of the axilla back to within a finger's breadth below the spine of the scapula to the eight[h] rib – & from within two inches of the vertebral column nearly to the mamma – M.B. considered it a fungus haematodes – he removed it very well – not much blood lost except from the large veins divided – breakfasted for the first time at the Shakespeare Tavern – good fare & cheap.²⁷ At Sichel's all old cases – Guersant on amputation.

/60v/ Saturday 11th.

Went down to Hotel Dieu this morning – went round with Roux, & afterwards saw Sanson's outpat^s. – amphitheatre crowded, therefore did not wait to see Roux's operations on cataracts &c.- but took my breakf^t. at Café Voltaire – Went today to the Musée d'Artillerie²⁸ – it is an interesting sight, but not much in my way – however I shall go again, next Saturday probably.

²⁶In addition to the dangers of infection from dissection of cadavers, as suffered by the diarist himself (see May 6, 8–12), hospitals have long been seen as sources of infection for those working in them, breathing airborne diseases and being in contact with patients' infected bodies.

²⁷The writing for the latter part of this entry is rather shaky suggesting that the diarist is still feeling unwell.

²⁸The Musée d'Artillerie was established in an ancient convent of the Jacobins and contained thousands of muskets, sabres, swords, poniards, maces etc., of all ages and countries. Among the most rare items were suits of armour of several kings of France, some female suits of armour including that of Joan of Arc and a small prayer book which contained a pistol in the interior. To the collection were added the spoils from the more recent Napoleonic wars. Items were removed in 1814 following claims from the allied powers but the remaining collection was still worth a visit. (*Galignani's new Paris guide*, pp. 530–2.)

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Sunday 12th.

Went to Hotel Dieu this morning & afterwards twice to R. de Bouloi – we²⁹ are about to remove next Sunday to N^o. 6 R. d’Anjou & de S^t. Honoré.

Monday 13th].

Went down this morning to Hotel Dieu – saw Sanson dress the little girl’s face – it is going on very well, but I question whether he dressed it properly – one needle³⁰ came out this morning – I don’t think S. introduced sufficient number of sutures – Breschet also dressed today the back of the man from whom he removed the tumor Friday – wonder he did not examine it before – it w^{ld}. have afforded the patient much comfort to examine & clean it before there is no necessity. Why the plasters sh^d. be removed: [sic] the edges of the wound were not brought near together – but they were much more approached by the dressing this morning. Sanson performed operation of lithotomy³¹ this morning on a little boy – stone was small – he used Dupuytren’s Lithotome Cachée [sic]³² – Sichel had a few good cases – Guersant did not lecture.

Tuesday 14th.

Went to the Hotel Dieu this morning with M. Roux – the case of suture in the perinaeum going on very well – Sanson’s case also doing /61r/ well – removed two of the pins this morning – Roux excised a tumor from the temple this morning – performed the operation of lithotomy very dexterously – bilateral. Went to the Louvre today.

Wednesday 15th.

Went down to the Hotel Dieu this morning. Sanson removed by excision the haemorrhoids in a man – some internal, others external – very little bleeding – he introduced afterwards a large mesh of charpie – he employed a pair of very strong curved scissors with a pair of dissecting forceps – he had also by his side forceps with two hooks – but he did not use

²⁹ He means his church community, which moved from rue de Bouloi to rue d’Anjou, which contained the Cimetière de la Madeleine where many victims of the Revolution, including members of the royal family and the aristocracy and also the Deputies Manuel and Rabaut-Saint-Étienne, were buried. (Hillairet, *Rues de Paris*, vol. 1, pp. 89–90.)

³⁰ Needle: thin pointed or tapering rod used to secure fine adjustment in closing apertures. These needles could be made of silver such as those then used at St. George’s Hospital. (See *St. George’s Hospital Report*, vol. 60, 1879, p. 447.)

³¹ Lithotomy: operation of cutting into the bladder to extract a stone. Several methods had been recommended for carrying out this procedure, but Hooper believed that only two could be used with any propriety. One was called the high operation in which the incision was made just above the pubis where the bladder is not covered by the peritoneum. The other, lateral operation, was performed in the perinaeum by laying open the neck and lateral part of the bladder so as to allow the extraction the stone. (Hooper, *Lexicon*, p. 786.)

³² Dupuytren’s Lithotome Cachée: Warren described having seen Dupuytren himself use his “double Lithotome caché” on a child of five years. Dupuytren began by introducing a small staff and then made an incision about 2 inches transversally through the middle of the perinaeum. The lithotome was then introduced on the staff into the bladder, the staff withdrawn, the blades of the instrument opened and the incision on both sides of the prostate made as the instrument was gently withdrawn. Finally the forceps and the stone were withdrawn. According to Warren, Dupuytren displayed great sang-froid, talked throughout and performed what Warren considered one of the most beautiful operations he had seen. (*Parisian education*, p. 82.) Dupuytren’s method was described in the Hôtel Dieu as the bi-lateral method. (Ratier, *Medical guide to Paris*, p. 25.)

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them – little ch^d. going on very well – Breschet’s case doing very well – he dressed it today – at his Consultatⁿ. a man came with the disease described by Dupuytren – hydatid tumor above & below the annular ring of the wrist – feeling is very peculiar – he had also the case of a man, who applied to him with an exostosis³³ of the olecranon – the produce of a blow – w^{ld}. have appeared at first a dislocatⁿ. but that the joint was otherwise perfectly formed – he performed M. Dupuytren’s operation for fistula lacrymalis³⁴ – it w^{ld}. appear an improvement but experience they say, is against it – nothing appears outside – also another extraordinary case – the fourth metatarsal bone³⁵ was depressed into the sole of the foot by the treading of a horse – Guersant on amputations of the lower extremity.

Thursday 16th.

Went to the Hop^l. de[s] Clinique[s]³⁶ – much room lost here in courts staircases etc – wards very narrow – badly built altogether. Went to the Louvre & after that to the Promenade de Longchamp³⁷ – very cold & consequ^{ly}. few persons there.

Friday 17th.

Went to Hotel Dieu – saw new improvement in M. Breschet’s forceps for varicocele³⁸ – vas deferens is separated before their application. Walked to the Arc D’Etoile³⁹ today.

³³ Exostosis: a morbid enlargement or hard tumour of a bone projecting above the surface of a bone.

³⁴ Fistula lacrymalis: a fistula in the tear duct and glands of the eye. Warren describes in considerable detail the method of carrying out this delicate operation devised by Dupuytren and requiring great skill. Warren had sent home a few of the canules used believing they would be useful and could be manufactured in America. (He was clearly ignoring issues of copyright.) (*Parisian education*, pp. 126–7.)

³⁵ Metatarsal: one of the long slender bones within the foot which lead to the toe, in this case to the one next to the little toe.

³⁶ Like many of the great Paris hospitals, the Hôpital des Cliniques de l’Observance held daily clinics at the same hour each morning, to which many foreign students were drawn. Starting in 1834, Paul Dubois held, three times a week, a clinic in midwifery. One guide book for American medical students indicated that there were on average two deliveries a day and that when a woman was taken in labour a lantern hanging from the porter’s lodge announced this event. The first two students to arrive were allowed to assist at the delivery. Students were thus enabled to gain experience that they would never obtain in England, Scotland or America. Nevertheless, as well as both groups often complaining about the overcrowding in the clinics, one American – and no doubt the diarist would have agreed – displayed his duplicitous attitude by proudly declaring that in his opinion not one American woman would allow herself to be exposed as did those in Paris. (Warner, *Against the spirit of system*, pp. 100, 190, 271, 275.)

³⁷ The *Promenade de Longchamp* was the annual promenade which took place in the Champs Élysées and the Bois de Boulogne on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Passion week. The ceremony began in the Abbey of Longchamp, founded in 1261 by Isabella of France. In the mid-eighteenth century the quality of singing of the nuns had attracted attention and the church became fashionable during Holy Week when the principal singers at the opera house were enlisted to take part. (*Galignani’s new Paris guide*, pp. 579–80.)

³⁸ Forceps for varicocele: Warren, who never witnessed the instrument being used but recorded written accounts and those of friends, described Breschet’s treatment. He explained that Breschet’s aim was to obliterate as far as possible the varicose veins of the scrotum cord by compression. To this end he had invented a special kind of forceps. Making sure that neither arteries nor nerves were included, the forceps were screwed onto the compromised vein. After a few days, inflammation took place followed by gangrene and the vein was obliterated. After one or two further applications, the disease was said to be cured. (Warren, *Parisian education*, p. 231.)

³⁹ The Arc d’Étoile was the Arc de Triomphe de l’Étoile, still incomplete at the time the diarist visited it. It was begun in 1806 at the expense of the city of Paris to commemorate Napoleon’s triumph over Russia and his alliance with Tsar Alexander I. Further work was carried out in 1810 to commemorate Napoleon’s conquest of

17–21 April 1835

Guersant on amputations – dined at Lucés’s English Restaurant – as today is Jour Maigre.⁴⁰

Saturday 18th.

Went down to Hotel Dieu – went round with Roux, his cases of laceration of perinaeum are doing very well – he operated today – removed fatty tumor from the head – & amputated a leg. /61v/ He had another operation – but what it was I c^{ld}. not see.⁴¹ Today is “Jour Maigre” again – confound them – did not know it ’till dinner time, otherwise w^{ld}. have dined out again.

Sunday 19th.

Went down to the Hotel Dieu. The last case, on whom Roux operated for laceration of perinaeum is very ill – vomits & there is some erysipelas – went to the Chapel in the Rue D’Anjou to hear M^r. Newstead – one of the most impressive sermons I ever heard. The chapel is really very neat & comfortable – I remained [*sic*] to the Sacrament. In the Evening went into the Eglise de S^t. Sulpice⁴² to hear the music & there met Bird, with whom I went home to take tea.

Monday 20th.

Went down to the Hotel Dieu – Roux’s case is dead – ~~San~~ Breschet did not operate this morning on the tumor – cautery was not ready – intends to do it tomorrow – I am very much pleased with him, he is so exceedingly cautious & careful not so brilliant as Roux, but as far as I can observe, much more cautious – indeed were I to require the assistance of a Surgeon, whilst in Paris, there is no one that I have yet seen whom I sh^d. so willingly call in as Breschet – I observed him open two abscesses today – one in the palm of the hand & the other in the “trajet”⁴³ of the brachial artery – Guersant on dressing of stumps & [a] few general observations on lithotomy.

Tuesday 21st.

Went down to Hotel Dieu this morning – absolutely nothing under the three Surgeons, except a case of compound fracture of M. Sanson’s – the woman with the tumor under Breschet’s care will not now submit to the operation – went to Guersant’s but had nothing to do – it is necessary, I find, to provide myself with a bistoury & director.⁴⁴

Austria and his marriage to the Archduchess Marie Louise of Austria, but the difficulties in obtaining a solid enough foundation for the immense frame and the costs impeded further progress, and in 1814 the work was discontinued and the scaffolding removed. In 1823 upon the final success of the French army in Spain, the king ordered its completion, and when eventually finished, the main arch was an imposing structure and a Paris landmark. (*Galignani’s new Paris guide*, pp. 294–5.)

⁴⁰ Jour Maigre: religious day of abstention on which the eating of meat was forbidden. It would seem that the diarist was not prepared to eat fish instead.

⁴¹ The diarist does not say if his failure to see Roux’s surgical technique is again due to the crowds of students around him obscuring the view.

⁴² St. Sulpice was the parish church of the 11th arrondissement and was originally begun in 1655 on the site of an ancient church dedicated to St. Peter. At the time of the diarist’s visit, it contained a highly ornamented organ, one of the most complete by François-Henri Clicquot, numerous fine statues and paintings. (*Galignani’s new Paris guide*, pp. 118–22.)

⁴³ “Trajet”: the passage or route of the artery along the arm.

⁴⁴ Director: a grooved instrument to direct a knife during surgery. (Hooper, *Lexicon*, p. 499.)



Figure 22: An illustration by Mathias Mayor showing his splint for a fracture of the leg, suspended by four cords. From his 'De la conduit à tenir dans les cas de fractures douteuses du col du fémur', *Gazette Médicale*, 27 September 1834. (By permission of the British Library.)

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/62r/ Wednesday 22nd.

Went down to the Hotel Dieu this morning – nothing in Roux’s female ward – Sanson has a good case of compound fracture of the leg about 3 inches above the ankle – the woman came in on Monday Evening – yesterday the limb wound was dressed as usual with adhesive plaster & the limb enveloped in the many tailed bandages etc commonly employed at the Parisian Hosp^{ls}. This morning M. S. determined on employing M. Mayor’s splint, which is extremely convenient for compound fractures, the splint is suspended ~~on~~ by 4 cords, covered with a cushion, on which the limb is laid⁴⁵ – M. Mayor uses this method in all cases even of fracture of the femur, but it certainly cannot be a convenient apparatus in the latter – as too much mobility is allowed to the limb. One considerable advantage attending the employment of this method is the ease with which the patient can be moved – nothing more is necessary than to make an assistant support the 4 cords – & the fractured limb is as securely fixed, as tho’ the pat^t. were quietly laid in bed – this tho’ is an advantage, which is probably equally obtained from the employment of Scultet’s apparatus – I am amazingly pleased with this splint of M. Mayor’s – I think, I will buy it before leaving Paris, as well as his book⁴⁶ – he of course, as every body else, carries his ideas too far – but his observations on bandages etc are particularly ingenious & very serviceable to a medical man in the country⁴⁷ – who has not at all times everything he requires ready at hand – the girl, who was operated on has had a little attack of Erysipelas – but she is immensely improved – a very considerable portion of the wound has united – Breschet had nothing particular except opening two abscesses, one deeply situated under the latissimus dorsi⁴⁸ with slight ulceration of the rib – the other in the posterior part of the thigh. What an exceeding difference between M. Breschet & M. Roux in their methods of opening abscesses – the latter does it so quickly, that one can scarcely see the knife enter – the other seems always to have blunt bistouries & is a very long time in performing the operation – Guersant on Lateral operation of Lithotomy – did not go to the Manoeuvres,⁴⁹ as I had a miserable headache & did not feel at all well.

Thursday 23rd.

Went down to Hotel Dieu this morning – Roux has not a single case of importance in the wards /62v/ his cases of amputation are going on extremely well – one is almost entirely

⁴⁵ See Figure 22.

⁴⁶ The diarist could be referring to the recently published M. L. Mayor, *Fragmens de chirurgie populaire*, translated into English as *Popular surgery: being plain directions offered to the public at large . . . , for affording relief in all cases . . . in the absence of a regular practitioner* (1836). This was clearly a superior First Aid manual for non-professionals – indeed a number of the section headings begin with “First Attention . . .” or “First Assistance . . .” and, not surprisingly for a work by Mayor, contained illustrations of a variety of bandages and their use in a range of damaged areas of the body. See January 21, note 147.

⁴⁷ Perhaps the diarist has in mind a post in a rural setting on his return to England or is just showing awareness of the problems facing colleagues in such locations.

⁴⁸ Latissimus dorsi: this is a muscle which moves the humerus, the bone of the upper arm, and is located on the posterior part of the trunk. It is very broad, thin and for the most part fleshy and situated just under the skin. The use of this muscle is to pull the humerus downwards and backwards and to turn it upon its axis. On rising from a chair using our hands it is possible to perceive the contraction of this muscle.

⁴⁹ Manoeuvres: manual manipulation of obstetric cases, for example, attempts to reposition within the uterus a foetus in the breech position where the birth process was frequently hazardous.

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healed – tho' operated on only Saturday last – only at the two extremities small portions not quite cicatrised – Erysipelas is & has been very common for a long time past – Most of Roux's cases of operations have been affected more or less gravely with this disease – Sanson's case of comp^d. fracture going on very favourably – At Guersant's today I performed the operations of tying the arteries of the upper extremity – I had no idea of the difficulty – if this course be of no other service to me – it will serve to shew, what difficulties, I shall hereafter meet with in performing what to me appeared very simple previously.

Friday 24th.

Went down to Hotel Dieu this morning. Nothing in Sanson's ward – Saw Roux dress a phlegmonous Erysipelas of the arm in a curious way – by applying round the limb a roller bound very firmly – I presume he means it to act in the same way as compression in burns – Sanson's case of comp^d. fract^e. in S^t. Jean going on very well – he is applying cold constantly, ~~const~~ kept up by a ~~constant~~ stream of water passing thro' a glass syphon – not so good as Breschet's, as being more liable to break & not being provided with a stopcock – a great convenience, I sh^d. imagine – Guersant on performance of operation for Fistula Lacrymalis, as usual not one word said about anything English – we[?] are not mentioned at all – but everything French detailed with the greatest minuteness, even the most childish theories & inst^{ts}. if invented by Frenchmen found a place in his lecture – this either shows ignorance or jealousy.

Saturday 25th.

Went down to Hotel Dieu. Nothing there – Breschet's pat^t. not going on very well. Went to Guersant's but did not manoeuvre – today I understand, there was a great concourse of students at the lecture of M. Roger Collard [*sic*]⁵⁰ – who afterwards accompanied him to his house hooting & hissing.

Sunday 26th.

Went down to the Hotel Dieu. Miserable day – did not stir out afterwards, 'till the Evening, when I took a turn in the Luxembourg G.

/63r/ Monday 27th.

Went down to the Hotel Dieu – nothing either with Roux or Breschet – B's case not doing at all well. At Guersant's today took up the arteries of lower extremity. G's lecture on cataract.

Tuesday 28th.

Went down to the Hotel Dieu with Roux – he has a case of strangulated hernia, on which he operated after the visit. I found it impossible to get at all near the table – I therefore did not

⁵⁰The diarist probably meant Caillard who was listed as the “*Médecin sédent. A l'Hôtel Dieu*”, that is the resident physician. (*Almanach royal*, 1830, p. 884.)

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wait for it. Nothing else either with Roux or Breschet. Rained hard all day – did not therefore go down to Guersant's manoeuvres.

Wednesday 29th.

Went down to Hotel Dieu with Roux – pat^t. with hernia going on very well – nothing but common cases besides.

Thursday 30th.

Went down to the Hotel Dieu. Nothing with Roux – his hernia case going on remarkably well – his amputation cases also, the boy with erysipelas after removal of tumor from temple, better. A man on whom he operated for tumor ~~was~~ in the head was affected with erysipelas yesterday, & is this morning very ill. Breschet's case of tumor died the Evening of 28th – Sanson's case of comp^d. fracture not going on well at all – he opened two large collections of matter surrounding the seat of fracture & this morning he proposed & obtained the woman's consent to amputate & the operation was performed immed^{ly}. after the visit. Went over today at Guersant's, lateral operation of Lithotomy.