

## MARVELS OF SURGERY.

To open the skull and penetrate the brain is not so common a surgical feat that it has ceased to be a wonder. Indeed such an operation performed at the Roosevelt Hospital has attracted the attention of the entire medical profession.

The patient, who is a physician, was thrown from his carriage last fall, striking heavily upon his head. He was removed to his home, where upon examination no external evidence of fracture of the skull was found. Later paralysis of the entire right side of the body was developed and with it a complete inability to express his thoughts; in the course of time the paralysis of the leg gradually disappeared until the patient could move it satisfactorily, but the paralysis of the arm persisted, as well as the inability to speak. After several months, and while in this helpless and well-nigh hopeless condition, the patient was brought to this city. The physicians who examined him concluded that the trouble was due to pressure on the brain, especially on the part of it which governs the faculty of speech, and that this pressure was probably caused by a clot of blood, resulting from the rupture of a blood vessel within the skull cavity at the time of the injury.

Acting upon this belief it was decided to open the skull, lay bare the surface of the brain and remove the cause of pressure if possible. To determine from the outside of a man's head the precise spot in the brain which governs any particular faculty or function is obviously a difficult task. After carefully mapping out the head by the most delicate measurements the spot corresponding to the center of speech in the brain was found. Then the patient, having been rendered unconscious by ether, the surgeon, after the preliminary incision of the scalp, removed by means of a trephine a round disk of bone immediately over the spot indicated, somewhat enlarging by the cutting forceps the opening thus made. The outer delicate membrane covering the brain was now brought into view. Beneath it lay a large, dark mass of clotted blood, extending down into the substance of the brain. The clot was carefully removed, when the effect of its pressure was clearly perceived in the impoverished circulation of the part. The wound was then dressed with every precaution and the patient was permitted to recover from the operation. The following night, for the first time after his injury, the patient was able to say "Yes" and "No." The condition of his right arm was also improved, and it is believed that he will eventually recover.

As a rule mutes are born deaf, but sometimes severe diseases in infancy destroy completely the sense of hearing. Under these circumstances even a partial recovery of hearing is extremely rare. A girl who is now nineteen completely lost her hearing when three years old through an attack of cerebrospinal meningitis, and in conse-

quence was brought up as a deaf mute, attending until recently the school of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Fordham. Coming to New York this spring she was placed under treatment with slight hopes of benefit. Her physicians ascertained that the delicate, nervous apparatus of the internal ear was still sound, else the case would have been hopeless. Under appropriate treatment, combined with dilation of the middle ear by inflation, improvement was soon noticed. In a month the young woman heard the ticking of a watch held twenty inches away and conversation at a distance of ten feet, and then she began learning how to talk. A month later she could hear a watch at a distance of five feet and conversation across the room.—*N. Y. World.*

## AFRICAN EXPEDITIONS.

For every African expedition that is heard of by the general public there are probably half a dozen that are organized, come to grief and are never heard of outside of Zanzibar and a limited circle who were immediately connected with their inception.

All the failures are brought about by the instability of the negroes whom you have to depend on to carry the supplies, as a first cause, and, as a second, the unfitness of the white man in charge to control and command that class of people. Some men are peculiarly fitted to manage a crowd of half-civilized, rattle-brained Africans; others are woefully out of place trying to command anything less civilized than their tailor.

The great outfitting place for expeditions starting into the interior from the east coast is Zanzibar.

Notice is circulated that men are wanted for a white man's expedition. In a very short time everybody in Zanzibar is talking about it. Young men desirous of acting as porters go to your agent and have their names put down. Three months' wages are paid them in advance to bind them to their contract. From the day of signing until the starting of the expedition, whether it be a week or six months, each man draws about five cents a day *posho*, or ration money. The wages of the porter is \$5 a month and rations. The old Maria Theresa dollar is still the unit of account in Zanzibar, although the currency is rupees.

In the interior there is no money; the currency of the interior is American or Bombay domestics, Manchester prints and handkerchiefs, beads of many kinds and colors, and iron and copper wires. It is the absence of money and the hulky nature of these supplies that make travel in Central Africa so difficult and expensive. Instead of putting a roll of notes or a purse of gold in your pocket you have to buy bales of cloth, sacks of beads and coils of wire, and hire a rabble of Zanzibar porters to accompany you and carry them on their heads.

The regulation porter-load weighs

sixty pounds. Lighter loads and better food are expected from a European than from an Arab. A load of domestics costs in Zanzibar about \$15, a load of beads from \$15 to \$50, according to quality; a load of seneges or iron ware, \$7, and a load of copper wire \$30. Your load of seneg, for which you have paid \$7 in Zanzibar, will cost you from \$40 to \$50 to transport it to Ujiji and \$75 to Uganda.

Much care and forethought have to be exercised in the selection of the various kinds of beads. Certain tribes will take only certain kinds. Savages are most conservative people in the matter of trade, and will no more think of accepting a necklace of beads to which they have not been accustomed than an American shopkeeper would of accepting across his counter a Russian rouble.

Many an explorer has bitterly rued his ignorance of this nice point when hundreds of miles beyond the possibility of rectifying the mistake. Because the beads he had taken with him were not current in Elgunin, Count Teleki, in 1878, was compelled to make war on the natives and seize food to prevent his people from starving. Unscrupulous bead merchants take advantage of the unsophisticated new arrival to unload on him their old stock, and interested parties will give him misleading information about the kind of beads he requires.

If you are going on an expedition that will last about a year you have probably engaged 200, a dozen askari, or soldiers, and three bead men. In addition to the supplies above mentioned are boxes of European stores for your own use, medicine chests, ammunition, tents, axes and, lastly, guns for arming the men. Every member of the expedition must have a gun. Information on this latter subject may save much expense and annoyance. The best rifle for the men is the British Government Snider. I tried a few Winchester carbines, but found them altogether too good and expensive a weapon for the careless and destructive Zanzibari. In spite of the utmost precaution on our part the porters will use their guns for turning over their loads and for all sorts of things for which a gun was never made. A little influence in London will enable one to obtain and ship to Zanzibar all the Sniders needed at a cost of about \$7 apiece landed in Zanzibar.

The porters are very like animals in the matter of never looking beyond the wants of the moment. They require as much attention from their leader as the same number of mules would, often a great deal more. They have a marvelous capacity for doing things the wrong way. If a box is breakable, it is very certain to be smashed before the end of the first day. If the weather is rainy, your gun-case, portmanteau, camera, etc., will be sure to be carried upside down, so that the water gets in under the lid. The wretch carrying your drinking water to tide you over the first four days will lag behind and empty half of it away to lighten his load ere you are an hour on the road.