

1886 V-7

CIRCUMCISION AT NINETY YEARS OF AGE UNDER
COCAINE ANÆSTHESIA.

BY WILLIAM STEVENS, M.D., NEW YORK.

(ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE, 1875.)

In the imagination a few operations like the following may have occurred, but as far as recorded instances of the kind are concerned, there are none, I believe. In the first place, a subject is required possessing age, liberal scientific views, sound mind and excellent health. The subject of this sketch is a gentleman possessing all these requisites, with the chief requisite necessitating the operation for phimosis. His recent life has shown remarkable strength of mind and body. Naturally jovial, and quite delighted to impart the knowledge he possesses regarding the earlier history of this city, he can dilate upon its growth, commercially, financially and politically.

He has suffered severely at times during micturition—from the prepuce adhering to and about the meatus urinarius; the penis was usually with the preputial folds included drawn down at least one-third and frequently one-half an inch below the abdominal surface of the surrounding pubes; the pain was necessarily mischievous, from irritation, during micturition; the preputial adherent folds about the meatus caused a divided and frequently a spray-like stream, which now and then—say every six or eight weeks—would cause a “spell” that frequently lasted several days; recently one of these “spells” became so troublesome I was called in haste, and quickly decided upon the operation of circumcision. The gentleman’s age being considered, and feeling that three heads are better than one, I called Dr. William M. McLaury as counsel in the case, and invited Dr. M. Josiah Roberts to perform the operation, which was beautifully done, and the patient is at present—two months after the operation—in fine condition, with a splendid chance of a much longer life, without further inconvenience from the penis that should have been treated in like manner just ninety years and ten days before.

Only a local anæsthetic was used in this operation. A two per centum solution of hydrochlorate of cocaine was hypodermically injected into the preputial folds, anterior to the rubber-cord

bandaging at the base of the penis; the local anæsthesia being so perfect that telling anecdotes was the manner the patient passed the entire time until the operation was completed, no untoward symptoms occurred, and perfect healing of the parts by first intention, with complete recovery, followed within a few days.—*New York Medical Monthly.*