SPECIMENS FROM THE HUNTERIAN COLLECTION

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11. The Elbow Joint (Specimen S 14)

These two specimens are from the same subject. The cavity of the right elbow joint has been gently distended by an injection of green gelatin, while brown gelatin has been injected into the bursa alongside the biceps tendon. In both specimens the bones of the forearm are in supination.

SPECIMEN S 14 (Medial view)

Medial view.—In the left elbow (upper specimen) the capsule has been removed, and the three parts of the medial ligament are seen. Two bands diverge upwards from the coronoid process of the ulna to the medial epicondyle of the humerus and to the medial border of the olecranon, forming together a V-shaped mass. The gap of the “V” is bridged by the third part of the ligament, which lies more deeply; its fibres run transversely between the limbs of the “V.” These fibres have a linear attachment to the humerus and the olecranon. The ulnar nerve lies upon them and, a little lower down, passes across the medial border of the coronoid process of the ulna.

In the right elbow (lower specimen) most of the fibres of the medial ligament have been

removed to expose the capsule of the elbow joint, to which the deep fibres of the medial ligament are rather firmly attached. The attachments of the capsule can be made out; they follow very closely the articular margins of the humerus and ulna. The capsule itself is thin and weak, contributing nothing to the strength or stability of the elbow joint.

The biceps tendon is flat at its insertion, where it is received into the posterior border of the tuberosity of the radius in the long axis of the limb. The bursa is of sufficient size to separate the biceps tendon from the bare area of the tuberosity of the radius. The bicipital aponeurosis [*lacertus fibrosus*] has been cut short; it is inserted, by way of the deep fascia of the forearm, into the posterior [*subcutaneous*] border of the ulna.

The fibres of the interosseous membrane slope downwards from the radius to the ulna, but fibres sloping in the opposite direction strengthen the free upper border of the membrane. The oblique cord is a slender structure; it can be seen sloping upwards from the

SPECIMEN S 14 (Lateral view)

lower border of the bicipital tuberosity of the radius to the coronoid process of the ulna.

Lateral view—In the left elbow (upper specimen) the single lateral ligament can be seen fanning out from the lateral epicondyle of the humerus to the annular ligament which is, of course, not attached to the neck of the radius. The lower specimen shows that the synovial membrane is, however, firmly attached to the neck of the radius around the cylindrical articular margin, whence it descends a little over the neck of the radius before folding back on itself to ascend beneath the annular ligament and become attached to the humerus. Most of the annular ligament and lateral ligament have been removed for better exposure of the tenuous capsule and synovial membrane. The size of the bicipital bursa can be seen.