

Hospital Reports.

A CASE IN WHICH LIGAMENT WAS TORN FROM THE PATELLA. BONE AND LIGAMENT SUTURED TOGETHER.

BY DR. MACFARLANE, TORONTO.

Robert McKenzie, laborer, æt. 60, admitted to the Toronto General Hospital on April 18th. Family and personal history are excellent.

While working in a barn on the 17th of April, he slipped through a hole in the floor, the left knee striking the edge of the hole. After the accident the knee became greatly swollen, and the power of extending the leg was lost. On examination, the knee was found much swollen, especially on its inner side, and there was quite an amount of effused blood in the joint. The patella was drawn up by the quadriceps extensor, and the bone could be outlined. By pressing the fingers over the lower part of the patella, they could be forced beneath the lower margin of the bone, showing that the ligament was torn off.

It was decided to open the joint and coapt the parts by means of silver wire.

April 31. The cutaneous tissues over the joint were rendered aseptic by being shaved, and thoroughly scrubbed with turpentine, soap and water, and afterwards with a 1-3000 solution of bichloride of mercury. The instruments were boiled and placed in a 1-40 solution of carbolic acid.

Operation.—The joint was freely opened by a transverse incision five inches long, extending across the front of the limb on a line with the normal level of the lower margin of the patella. On entering the joint the soft tissues were found considerably torn, and the ligament and bone were separated about one and a half inches. After thoroughly irrigating the parts with a 1-3000 bichloride solution and checking all hemorrhage, the bone and ligament were brought together by a single suture of one-twelfth inch silver wire. The torn soft tissues were brought together by carbolized catgut, and the external wound closed with silk. No drainage tube was used. The wound was dressed with iodoform, moist bichloride gauze, and absorbent cotton, and the limb put on a

posterior splint, with a foot piece, extending from the upper third of the thigh to the heel.

April 23. Temp. $100\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$, pulse 100, very little pain, bowels regular, light diet given.

24th. Temp. again reached 100° , but soon fell, and has not reached the same elevation since. No pain; only a feeling of discomfort in knee. The patient's condition continued most favorable, and on the 29th the dressings were removed and some of the stitches taken out. The swelling and extravasated blood had nearly disappeared, and there was no sign of tension or of pus.

31st. The rest of the stitches were removed, and the wound was found entirely healed.

May 16th. There is no pain or discomfort in the part; the knee is stiff, but there is no sign of inflammation. It is, however, deemed necessary to allow union to become a little more firm before using the limb, so it is still kept on the posterior splint. The general health is excellent.

Correspondence.

UNIVERSITY SENATE ELECTIONS.

Editor of THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER :

SIR,—The editorial comment on "The Vice-Chancellorship of the University," in your issue of the 16th instant, has just come to my notice, and I hasten to say that, did not our long and intimate association, in matters editorial and other, preclude the notion, I would be disposed to regard it as intentionally offensive. Let me repudiate, then, the credit or discredit attached to your statement that "Dr. (*sic*) I. H. Cameron good-naturedly allowed himself to be the medium for their purposes," and say to my constituents, to many of whom your words will come, that their representative is not weak-minded enough to be actuated by any such motive in a matter where principle is involved. Some members of the Senate felt it to be the duty of the hour, and others a due redemption of pledges made to the electorate, to place themselves on record as opposing Mr. Mulock's re-election; and such was, of course, their inalienable right. Hence, accordingly, when Mr. Mulock's nomination was made, Professor Pike rose and asked the Vice-Chancellor if the yeas