

a prominent symptom in fracture of the bone, when it was dependant upon a force proceeding from without inwards, so in these cases the limb enjoys a greater amount of mobility than is permitted in the other varieties of these accidents. The hand placed upon the trochanter major may, upon rotation of the limb, distinguish the movement of the shaft of the thigh-bone to be describing a considerably diminished circle, and extension of the limb, combined with a similar movement, may distinctly indicate a crepitus; marks which, taken with the direction of the force, will clearly diagnose the nature of the accident. In this case there may be a slight eversion of the toe, but this is by no means marked or permanent, and the foot is much more under the will of the patient than in other varieties of fracture of the neck of the thigh-bone. While it is even possible that after a time the patient may be able to walk, leaning the whole weight of the body upon the tough and thickened capsular ligament, in those cases in which the accident has been misunderstood or greatly neglected; this, however, could not possibly happen without marked deformity for the rest of life.

Where fracture of the neck of the thigh-bone, the result of direct force proceeding from above downwards, shall occur, and be complicated with laceration of the capsular and round ligaments, and perhaps also attended with a forcing of the shaft of the femur high upwards among the muscles of the hip, the symptoms indicating the nature of the accident will again be modified. The greatly increased elevation of the insertion of the muscles rotating the thigh-bone outwards, will be called into powerful action—the limb will be remarkably shortened, the toe turned outwards, and the thigh flexed upon the body. In some of these accidents inversion of the foot is present, but in far the greater number of cases eversion is the position in which we most commonly find the toe. It has been attempted to account for this difference of position by the mode in which the neck of the thigh-bone has been fractured; but to our mind this difference of condition is dependant upon the position or seat of the fracture, upon the amount of the neck remaining attached to the shaft. When the portion of the neck is of considerable length, and the bone has been suddenly thrust upon the dorsum of the ilium, the action of the muscles will have an effect similar to that which occurs in dislocation of the thigh-bone upon the ilium; then the bone will be firmly bound down upon the haunch by the small muscles upon the back of the hip: the pyramidalis, the gemelli, the quadratus femoris, and the obtura-