

RUPTURE OF THE RECTUS FEMORIS MUSCLE.

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In my edition of Druitt's Surgery, reference is made, in a marginal note, to a case of rupture of the rectus femoris musculo, in the Med. Gaz., Oct. 19th, 1841, from which I infer that such accidents are uncommon. In that case the rectus did not unite. Perhaps it will, therefore, not be uninteresting to some of your readers to direct attention to the following:—

H. Alguire, Esq., of this village, was riding at night over a rough road on a loaded wagon, and the wheels on one side coming in contact with a large stone in the road, he was suddenly and forcibly thrown from the wagon, and, having attempted to save himself by an effort to alight on his foot, he discovered, on rising from the ground, that he had lost the use of his right leg. I found, on examination, the tendon of the rectus femoris, where it unites with the upper border of the patella, completely separated from its attachment as if cut off with a knife, freely admitting the edge of the hand between them.

As I acknowledged myself not very familiar with the best possible method of treating the case, the patient summoned Dr. Brouse, whom I had not the good fortune to meet, but who left for me a written statement of his method of treatment. I subsequently wrote to Dr. Horatio Yates, of Kingston, on the subject, who promptly gave his views, in his usually kind way. Through the medium of your valuable journal, I now beg leave to state the method I adopted, and its results.

I had in my possession a double inclined plane of home manufacture, hollowed out for the thigh as well as for the leg. The hinge was removed and a straight piece of board was screwed to the bottom of either piece, so as to prevent any motion at the joint. The limb, being placed in it, the foot was bound to the foot-board, which was the fixed point in the apparatus.

At about the middle of the thigh, on the upper edge of the thigh piece, on either side, I attached a small piece of tape. Taking a piece of elastic, such as is used for garters, and making it of double thickness by means of a number of stitches at short spaces, to increase the tension, I fastened one end of the elastic