

the load he became insensible, probably fainted, and was carried to his house. He was seen by two medical gentlemen, who declared that his back bone was broken and advised his removal to Hospital. He was admitted into Hospital that same afternoon, under the care of Dr. Fenwick, when the following condition was found to exist: there was considerable bulging of the spinous processes of the lumbar vertebræ, the soft parts were swollen red and puffy; there was great tenderness, the slightest attempt at examination produced agonizing pain, the spinous processes were separated from the bodies of the vertebræ, and they appeared to be separated from one another: the second, third and fourth lumbar vertebræ were engaged in the displacement, the first, third and fourth lumbar spines were considerably elevated, forming an arch backwards at this region of the spine. Attached to them and likewise displaced were the laminae and transverse processes, so that the back at this point, instead of presenting the usual hollow, bulged outwards. There was no loss of sensation or motion in the lower extremities but the catheter had to be used for a few days after admission to relieve his bladder. On admission, the house surgeon, Dr. Drake, had him placed on a firm hair mattress with his face downwards, a pillow was placed beneath the abdomen and a bladder of ice put on the back over the seat of injury. This treatment was continued, and at the end of a few days his diet, which at first was withheld, was increased, and perfect rest enjoyed. The bowels were sluggish, and the rectum had to be washed out with injections. At the end of about ten days he was able without assistance to roll over on his side but would hastily return to the position on his belly, as this change increased his uneasiness. While lying on his face he was comparatively comfortable; suffered no pain or uneasiness. His appetite was remarkably good throughout, and he passed a large quantity of light coloured urine with a heavy sediment chiefly of earthy phosphates; a little later, a gutta-percha splint was moulded to his back, and retained in its place by a bandage; this gave great support. In the course of a month or six weeks he was able to change his position in bed and lie over on either side. The back felt very weak, and he was at this period still unable to support the weight of his body; but gradually though slowly, he improved, and about the middle of January, or three months after the receipt of injury, he was able to stand and walk with the aid of a stick. He states that his stature has been diminished by one and a quarter inches: this assertion is corroborated by some of his friends.

Fractures of the spinal column or injury to the osseous envelope of the spinal cord possess more than usual interest to the surgeon. As