

so, to warn surgeons against the practice of sawing through the fibula at too low a level. In the majority of leg amputations which have come under the writer's notice, the fibula has been left too long. This bone bears pressure badly, and should be divided at a level one-quarter to half an inch above that of the section of the tibia.

Experience has shown that below the junction of the middle and lower thirds of the leg, Syme's amputation gives the best stump. If the metatarsus cannot be saved, it is not worth while to preserve a part or all of the tarsus. Chopart's amputation gives a stump which has a good weight-bearing surface, but owing to the preponderating strength of the calf muscles, it sooner or later acquires an equinus deformity, and this tilting results in the scar being pressed against the ground and giving pain. It is impossible to restore the "spring" of the foot by attaching any appliance to the front of the stump, without sacrificing the freedom of the ankle movement.

Foot.

By far the best amputation in the region of the foot is Syme's amputation. Experience demonstrates that no other amputation gives such uniformly good results. Whenever Syme's amputation is feasible, no other amputation (excepting removal of toes) should be performed in the region of the foot. (Crown Memorandum.)

Muirhead Little says: "Very bulky Symes' stumps are to be avoided. The best result is to be obtained by dividing the bones well above the malleoli instead of at the usual level. The section should be made at right angles to the general axis of the whole leg, below the knee."

Amputation Stumps.

The chief requirements of a good stump are:

- (1) A good covering for the bone.
- (2) Sound healing.
- (3) Consolidation.
- (4) Painlessness.
- (5) Freedom of movement.