

as the bronchial affection caused some uneasiness, and the catamenial period had just arrived, I considered it more judicious to attempt remedying the deformity by gradual mechanical extension, whilst the general system was undergoing so important a change. With this view, I had an instrument constructed which admitted the muscles of the limb to be relaxed after extension had been carried on for some hours, and was so constructed that the patient herself, or one of her friends, could manage it. The joint was kept smeared with an ointment of iodide of mercury, and an iodine solution and cod liver oil were taken internally. After two months' use of the instrument, the toes could be brought to the ground; and now, strict injunctions were given to leave off the use of the crutch, and use a cane instead of it. This part of the treatment was very difficult to carry out; for, like most persons who have become accustomed to the support and assistance in progression afforded by a crutch, she found it most difficult to dispense with its use. As the navigation of the *St. Lawrence* was about closing, she returned home, and the same plan of treatment was carried out, not regularly however, by her relatives during the ensuing winter; yet, though the extension had not been advanced, I found that, on her return to Montreal the following summer, that she could walk with the aid of a cane, and even move about without one; and as her health had become improved, and as there was now no pain at all in the joint, it was determined to carry the extension to the fullest degree the condition of the parts would admit of. Instruments of various constructions failed to stretch the limb beyond what would allow of one-half the foot being placed on the ground; the heel was still fully an inch and a half from it; and as further extension seemed prevented by the rigid condition of the tendons of the semi-tendinosus, semi-membranosus and biceps muscles, I resolved to divide them, and thus overcome their resistance. Assisted by Dr. Howard, the oculist, I divided these tendons on the 9th of Oct., 1856, the patient being under the influence of chloroform, and before its effects had passed off, forcible extension to a considerable degree was practised, the joint was enveloped in a wet bandage, and an apparatus applied. There was no pain, swelling or effusion, after the operation; and in the course of a month, the patient could touch the floor with almost the whole of the heel. Indeed, so great was the change, that her parents felt quite satisfied with the improvement already obtained, and wished to allow her to discontinue the use of the instrument, and rely upon the aid of a high-heeled boot. But to this proposition I would not consent; for experience has convinced me, that we should never allow a patient to wear a high-heeled boot, or to use a crutch, if progression can be accomplished without their