

the example which he has afforded to the medical world in the prosecution of his professional labours, will become the constant adviser of every practitioner, particularly in this country.

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SIR ASTLEY COOPER, MR. EARL AND MR. CHAS. BELL.

We promised in our last number to give our readers an account of the surgical controversy which has arisen between these three distinguished characters, and whatever our desire may be of dwelling fully on subjects of such practical utility, as those which we shall presently consider, it cannot be expected that we should devote to discussions, bearing evidently a character of personal animosity, a time more advantageously employed for the information of the Canadian practitioner.

The principal question arose from the assertion of Sir Astley Cooper, that when fracture of the neck of the thigh bone occurs within the capsular ligament, no bony union takes place. He says that during an extensive practice of forty years, not one instance of union has taken place in this case, except it were a mere ligamentous junction. This is accounted for by insufficiency of the ligamentum teres to supply the insulated head of the bone with ossific matter, except what may be requisite for its nourishment. He, however, does not deny the possibility of ossific union. "when the fracture is through the head of the bone, and there is no separation of the fractured ends; or when the bone is broken without its periosteum, and the reflected ligament which covers its neck being torn; or when it is broken obliquely, partly within and partly without the capsular ligament," but in all these cases he has never yet seen an instance of bony union in all his practice. The experience of Dr. Colles of Dublin is brought in corroboration of Sir Astley's views. That gentleman affirms that he has never known a bony union to occur when the fracture takes place within the capsular ligament.

Some time after the publication of Sir Astley's work, Mr. Earl, Surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, felt it a duty he owed to his profession to contradict a statement which he considered might lead the practitioner particularly the younger part of the profession into a practice which must appear incontrovertible, coming from such a respectable source,