

Dislocation of the Ninth Dorsal Vertebra Treated by Extension.

Dr. ARMSTRONG showed a man in whom he had successfully reduced a dislocation of the dorsal vertebra. The patient was brought into the hospital with what appeared to be a fracture and dislocation of the eighth or ninth dorsal vertebra. The accident occurred in the following way: The man driving under a gate-way on top of a load got himself jammed between the latter and the arch. There was no evidence of destruction of the cord at that time, he could move his legs, etc., and sensation seemed normal: but his body was doubled up, bent much forwards, and he was unable to straighten himself. A depression was observed at the point of injury and the supra-spinous ligament seemed broken. He put the patient under an anæsthetic, had a large pillow placed under his abdomen, and with the assistance of two men attempted extension and reduction. To his great surprise the dislocation was reduced almost at once, slipping right in, the two vertebræ came together and the depression and deformity disappeared. The man felt quite relieved upon coming out of the chloroform, and although seven weeks had passed he had had no bad symptoms since. From this experience he would therefore advise surgeons always to try extension of the spine with manipulation of the vertebræ before proceeding to operate, no matter what their previous experience of such cases may have been.

Arthrectomy.

Dr. ARMSTRONG showed a man upon whom he had performed arthrectomy about a year before. The patient had been exhibited shortly after the operation, when only slight motion in the joint was present; now, however, it was capable of a great deal more. The operation consisted of opening the knee-joint and removing the articular surfaces of both condyles and a portion of the tibia. He had cut across the patella, which was united by ligamentous union. The case was one of caries sicca, with marked atrophy of the muscles. The object in bringing him again was to