Sir Astley Cooper has advised that we leave these cases of fracture of the neck of the thigh-bone almost entirely to nature, as we cannot hope for union of the fractured bone; but we must ever remember, that union ever so imperfect would in these cases be a marked advantage; consequently we think that every patient is entitled to a chance of such benefit. It must be clear to all that Sir Astley Cooper's advice can extend only to the last-named variety of these fractures of the neck of the thigh-bone, caused by force proceeding from above downwards—the accident which especially occurs in old people; but when fracture has happened external to the capsular ligament, we need not despair of bony union and the future usefulness of the limb, unless some constitutional disability intervene to prevent it. From the opinions expressed by Sir Astley Cooper, and the deductions we have endeavored to establish from the varying nature of the forces which produce these accidents, it must be evident that we may expect a vast difference in the results: first, in the nature of the fracture; second in the possibility of a cure. The first has been already fully explained. The second remains to be considered, and we believe may be readily explained by the anatomical peculiarities of the part. Thus, when fracture of the neck of the thigh-bone happens, caused by force proceeding from without inwards, it is always attended with considerable laceration of the capillary blood vessels; not only of the fractured bone and its periosteum, but also of the muscular and fibrous structures in their immediate neighborhood; from this results effusion of blood, and swelling of the part. As soon as the hœmorrhage has been arrested, and the tone of the capillaries and absorbent vessels has been re-established, the thinner portions of the blood—now separated into serum and clot—begin to be absorbed; it is taken up by endosmotic influence, through the thin and transparent coats of these vessels; this process constantly progresses until almost all the constituent principles of the blood, excepting the fibrine and corpuscles, are removed. These latter now at rest, are broken up, and their coloring matter, which tinges the various structures around with a great variety of tints, is also slowly absorbed; at last scarcely more than the fibrine is left in the part, and this is generally placed under the most favorable circumstances to become organized. New blood vessels are formed in the effused substance, it becomes fibrous tissue; the variety of this tissue will be always dependant upon the law of *analagous formations* which exists in the animal economy; hence, agreeably to the nutritive apparatus of the structure