

as one that would sooner or later be put into operation, and one that could not be attended with any very serious results: Dr. T. Clifford Allbut reported in the *Practitioner* for February, 1869, the case of a man with double pneumonia, on whom this operation was performed successfully for the relief of the most distressing tympanitis. The punctures—two in number—were made over the transverse and descending colon. The patient however died of pneumonia, after obtaining relief to the tympanitis. After death no traces of the punctures could be found, except on the surface of the body. The instrument used was an exploring trocar (No. 1 Weiss).

[The History of the above cases seems to fortify us in regard to our opinions on this subject. We would like the opportunity of seeing this treatment more fully tested, however, before adopting it in our own practice."]

CASE OF PROTRACTED RECOVERY

FROM EXTENSIVE COMPOUND COMMINUTED FRACTURE OF LEG.

BY DR. ELLIOTT RICHARDSON,

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The uncertainties of prognosis are frequently illustrated by fatal results from apparently trivial causes, while on the other hand, it is sometimes our fortune to witness wonderful recoveries from injuries which would generally be considered almost necessarily fatal, either to life or to the usefulness of the member affected.

The following case possesses some interest, not only on account of the ultimately favorable result, but also on account of the protracted recovery.

A railroad employe, 31 years of age, of good height and physical development, in good health, but not free from the use of alcoholic drinks in excess at times, was admitted to the Pennsylvania Hospital, under the care of Dr. W. Hunt, October 29, 1869, suffering from injuries received by being run over on the railroad.

On examination the right thigh was found to be much swollen and discolored, giving evidence of very serious and extensive contusion of the part. The knee-joint was unharmed, but below the knee the limb was extensively injured. On the inner and upper side, about