

CANADA

MEDICAL JOURNAL.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Compound Dislocation of the Ankle treated by Cold Water. Reported
by DRs. WHITCOLM AND FULLER.

Pare, butcher æ 24, temperate and of robust constitution, received a compound dislocation of the ankle, by a fall from a waggon on May 19th. The foot was turned inward, at a right angle with the leg, and through the wound on the outer side of the ankle, which was about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, projected the astragalus and external maleolus. The foot was quite moveable; the internal maleolus could be easily felt, and all the ligaments of the joint appeared to be ruptured. Excision or amputation was advised, but the patient being unwilling to submit, it was determined, in consultation with Dr. Abbot of this place, to reduce the dislocation, which was easily effected after placing the patient under the influence of chloroform. A splint, secured by two straps, was applied to the inner side of the leg, with a pad against the foot, and the wound was brought together by stitches. Ordered a morphia powder, and the leg and foot to be covered with cloths dipped in cold water, and to be changed as often as they became warm; urine was drawn off by the catheter.

20th.—Rested well during the night, some pain in the joint this morning, which discharges a bloody serous fluid; the leg is warmer than the other; morphia every six hours, and water to be poured over the foot and leg in a continual stream.

Evening.—Pain increased, some fever; ordered pounded ice in a bag to be applied to the leg and shifted often from place to place, the ankle and foot to be kept cool by pouring on as much cold water as necessary, the surface of the body to be sponged with cool water, and a morphia powder every fourth hour.

21st.—Rested pretty well, much pain at intervals, some fever, and tongue slightly coated. Ordered iced water to be poured over the foot