

QUARTERLY RETROSPECT OF SURGERY.

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Excision of Knee Joint.—Mr. Richard Davy, F.R.C.S., of the Westminster Hospital, London, has lately advocated (*Brit. Med. Jour.*, October 20th, 1883,) a new method of resection of the knee joint, which he calls *Tibio-femoral Impaction*. The method consists in removing the end of the femur so as to leave it wedge shape, the wedge sloping from before, downwards and forward, a mortise is then cut in the head of the tibia and into this is pushed the tenon-shaped end of the femur. The leg is placed in a splint specially designed by Mr. Davy, and pressure is kept up on the foot until "impaction results in fixity of tenure." Mr. Davy claims that the advantages of his operation are, "that osseous ankylosis is established (so to speak) before the patient leaves the operating table and many surgical contentions are removed, such as the misplacement of bones by startings, jerks, or inefficient bandging." Mr. Davy admits that considerable shortening results from this procedure, but he does not think this an objection. Like many of Mr. Davy's operative novelties, we fear this new method of excision will not be enthusiastically adopted by the surgical world, the operation is certainly a new one and should be placed under the head of mechanical surgery. Mr. Davy has performed excision now