

NOTES ON SURGICAL CASES.

THE value of the X Rays in the diagnosis of bone disease has frequently been proven in connection with the patients in the surgical wards of the Kingston General Hospital, and the two following cases are cited as examples of the aid afforded to the surgeon by the skiagraphs taken previous to the operations.

L. D. S., aet. 23, was admitted to Yates' Ward, Dec. 18th, 1896, suffering from a fracture of the left femur at the junction of the middle and upper thirds, the result of an accident that day. A falling tree had struck him, breaking his leg and pinning him to the ground, and on admission he was found in a condition of considerable shock. The injured limb was deformed as the result of an injury when the patient was two years of age, the leg below the knee being very much atrophied, four inches shorter than its fellow and carried posteriorly at an angle of about 60 degrees with the thigh. There was also evidence of disease in the knee joint, two sinuses being seen on the inner aspect of the joint discharging a thin watery looking pus. This discharge the patient stated had existed since the preceding spring and had been copious at times. Up to the time of the accident he had been wearing a crude form of artificial limb and had been able to do heavy laboring work.

The patient as well as his father, who accompanied him, urged immediate amputation of the deformed, diseased, and injured limb, but it was explained to them that this would not be a good surgical procedure under the circumstances. Accordingly the fracture was reduced and short coaptation splints adjusted. An absorbent dressing was applied to the knee joint and the limb placed comfortably on a pillow. The bandages were re-applied on the 21st, and again on the 30th Dec. On Jan. 20th, the fractured femur was found to be well-united, so the whole limb was thoroughly cleansed and put in plaster of paris, an opening being left for the sinus discharge. This permitted the patient to move about the ward daily on crutches, and his general health markedly improved.

On Feb. 6th, a skiagraph of the region of the knee joint was taken on a celluloid plate which fitted closely to the limb. This showed in addition to the manifest disease in the joint that foci of the disease extended up the femur for $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The original intention had