

practical importance that these questions be accurately answered. These answers, we think, should be determined, should be arrived at, partly by theoretical consideration, partly by the study of the pathological anatomy present (as revealed at the operating table or at the autopsy room) in knee joints whose patella have been fractured, and, largely and mainly, by the clinical observation and clinical comparison, from the anatomical and functional standpoints of the results obtained, by the employment of the various methods of treatment advocated and practised.

Among the questions calling for a definite answer are the following:

1. Is the patella essential to the functional integrity of the knee-joint?

2. Are permanent displacements of the patella, in whole or in part, congenital or acquired, deformities significantly impairing the functions of the knee-joint?

3. Are there other traumatic lesions, simulating from the symptomatic standpoint, by the functional disturbances which they entail, fractures of the patella? What are these conditions? How are they best treated?

4. Which is the treatment of choice for fracture of the patella?

5. Is operation, at times, contraindicated? If so, when?

6. If operation is not always indicated, when is it indicated?

7. How should the treatment of old fractures differ from that of recent fractures, or is the same treatment applicable to both? If not, why not?

8. Which of the principal various open operative procedures that are now in vogue for the treatment of fractures of the patella, is the most universally applicable, the most satisfactory from the standpoint of early and of late results: transverse or longitudinal osseous suturing, looping of the patella (cerclage Berger,) hemi-cerclage (Quenu,) or suturing of the peri and para-patellar fibrous tissues (suture des ailerons, Vallas, retinaculæ patellæ, B.N.A.) (reserve extensor apparatus, Mickulicz)?

Questions of operative technique, concerning equally all the different open operative methods, for fractures of the patella,