

Selected Articles.

EXCISION OF THE ULNA, INVOLVING THE ELBOW.

The subjoined case is reported by Dr W. W. Miner. in the *Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal*, October, 1871 :

William J. Leech, aged 32, residing on Carrollstreet, Buffalo, while employed as brakeman on the Lake Shore R. R., was, on the 6th day of November, 1869, caught between car couplings in such a manner as to crush the upper third of the ulna, and to lacerate to some considerable extent the soft parts on the posterior parts of the fore-arm and immediately surrounding the comminuted ulna. The injury was received on the road some distance from Dunkirk. The physicians who were called at Dunkirk advised immediate amputation of the arm. The patient preferred riding to Buffalo, where he might obtain further advice as to the necessity of amputation. Though the injury occasioned somewhat remarkable comminution of bone, and some considerable laceration of the tissue, still it was found that the ulna was alone the seat of fracture, and that circulation and sensibility in the hand and forearm was not in any particular degree affected. The longitudinal opening in the integument was lengthened by incision so as to extend as far down as did the fractured bone. The upper and middle thirds of the ulna were removed by excision, while the radius was left intact. The limb was afterwards placed upon an angular splint whose obliquity was varied as was necessary. Though the shock of the injury was very considerable, still the attempt at the preservation of the limb gave the patient courage, which was a valuable adjuvant in his recovery. Carbolic acid water dressings were assiduously employed, and the cleansing of the parts with water was carefully and regularly attended to. Suppurative discharge was abundant, and to this, from the position of the wound on the posterior part of the forearm, there was afforded ready exit. Visits to the patient at his house were required for a period of six weeks, after which time he came regularly to the office, where the last dressing the case received was on the 29th day of December, only fifty-four days after the receipt of the injury. The result of the excision is a