

stump. The operation of excision of the knee joint, so far as I can ascertain, has been performed four times in Canada. The first case, that of a young woman suffering from scrofulous disease of the knee joint, excision was performed by Dr. Hingston, at the Hotel Dieu Hospital, in the spring of 1862; every hope was entertained of success, as the case progressed favourably, until about the twelfth or thirteenth day, when diarrhœa set in, which carried her off on the seventeenth day after the operation. The second case was that of Dr. Grant, of Ottawa, C.W., the notes of which are to be found in the first volume of this journal. The results were most encouraging: the patient recovered with a sound and useful limb, two and a quarter inches shorter than the other leg. I may observe, that in a recent letter received from Dr. Grant, he states, that his patient had perfectly recovered, and was capable of enduring the labour of working his farm, and following the plough. In the other two cases, the operation was performed by myself, and they are of sufficient interest to warrant their record.

John Keenan, aged 18 years, a native of Canada, by trade a confectioner, of small stature, regular conformation, delicate appearance, fair complexion, light-coloured hair and eyes, and is of a happy, cheerful disposition. His family history was good, his maternal grandfather still living at an advanced age, and all members of his family strong and robust. He was admitted into the Montreal General Hospital on 11th April, 1865, suffering from an acute attack of synovitis.

*History.*—Seven years since he received a kick on the knee from a cow; at the time it became inflamed and very painful. He was confined to his bed for several weeks, during which period the knee was leeched several times, and various local applications made. This attack was attended with considerable constitutional disturbance, which, after some time, subsided, and he was enabled to get about, but the joint remained a little swollen, and was rather stiff. He was able, however, to go about his usual avocations, but the knee gave him much uneasiness; it was easily hurt, and he could not enter into the play of boys of his age. Slight blows, or twists in running would oblige him to remain at rest for days; these accidents were of frequent occurrence.

Two years ago the knee joint began to pain him at night, and occasionally would start, giving him much agony and interfering with his rest. Still he continued on at his work, with occasional intermissions; these attacks became more frequent, until worn out by their annoyance, he sought admission to the Hospital. At the time of admission he presented a careworn look. There was loss of appetite; he was pale and anxious, and the affected limb presented a marked contrast with its fellow