

the same principle, that is by flexing the leg on the thigh, and the thigh on the pelvis thereby making the pelvis the fulcrum.

It is not however my province to decide at this period whether Dr. Reid is or is not the first to describe and demonstrate a method by which the profession are to be guided in the reduction of dislocation of the femur. I only ask to be allowed to present all the evidence in the premises, in order that an intelligent profession shall judge, as I have done the facts and merits of the two modes of procedure; one (to me) seems a matter of science, simply following out the indications of nature and moving the limb in the direction which seems the most natural and easy.

Each motion will be examined in detail, and will be found consistent with science and nature, while on the contrary, the other seems a hap-hazard effort to force the head of the bone to assume its natural position by a kind of lever power making the adductors the fulcrum.

If any one is disposed to pursue this subject, as a matter of science, let him attempt to abduct his own thigh (either when straight or partially flexed) to any considerable degree. Note the pain which follows, and the impossibility of carrying the abduction to any great extent before the muscles seem as if about to be rent. Note the rigid condition of the abductors. Surely if the pain is great on attempting abduction in the normal condition of the limb, how much more tense the muscles, and painful would be the abduction if the head of the bone was on the dorsum ilii—when the insertion of the abductors would be nearly at right angles to the shaft, and made tense by its position—making abduction more difficult and painful.

Place yourself in the recumbent position, go through with Reid's method, or, if you please, let your friend do it for you, and you will see that all of the motions are natural, that each set of muscles relax and contract in their turn, with no pain; while, follow the other plan of forced abduction and flexion, and you find they are attended with great pain.

I conceive that an intelligent profession will fully appreciate the difference on the one hand of strong abduction before flexing the limb on the body; and on the other of the important point in the reduction, (which needs to be followed like the demonstration, of a mathematical problem,) that Smith regarded the adductors as the fulcrum upon which the femur was to act as a lever, while really not the adductor muscles, but the pelvis forms the fulcrum.

In illustration of the method four cases were cited, in one of which the reduction was accomplished upon the first effort, and in a single minute.

Dr. HOFF fully concurred regarding the efficacy of the Reid plan for reducing dislocation of the femur, but believed there existed a necessity for firmly fixing the pelvis; and by bringing the position of the bone first upon the dorsum ilii, wherever its abnormal position, it must be resolved into a dislocation upon the dorsum before its reduction. He had never seen the plan succeed by the first effort, unless the head of the bone was upon the dorsum ilii. If the pelvis be firmly fixed he thought there was but little necessity for abduction or rocking motion of the thigh, for the head of the bone would slip into the acetabulum.

Dr. SWINBURNE remarked that the anæsthesia of the muscles, according to Dr. Reid, destroyed the surgeon's aid and guide. The reports of the manipulations in Europe are not in accordance with the method laid down by Dr. Reid.

Dr. POMFRET related a case recently under his observation, where the Reid method had failed. The patient had been crushed in a clay bank and suffered injury of the spine. The pulleys were applied, and the dislocation reduced. Why had the Reid method failed? Perhaps, because the pelvis was not fixed, because in a post-mortem examination that followed the next day, the pelvis was separated from the dorsum ilii, and fractured through the acetabulum. Hence it was movable, and perhaps demonstrates the necessity of the pelvis being fixed in the act of reduction by this method.