CANADA

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Case of Fracture of the Anterior Superior Spinous Process of the Ilium by Muscular contraction. Reported by S. JOY, M.D., and J. WALLACE McWHINNIE, M.D.*

In looking up the literature of fractures of the anterior superior spinous process of the ilium we read of their occurrence from direct violence, but not one case is recorded as having taken place from muscular action. Having had just such a case to treat we have thought it of sufficient interest to report :—The patient, Augustine T., aged 17, medical student, was engaged in a foot-race where a certain distance had to be run then to turn and run back. In the exertion of turning he felt something snap in his right hip, walked a few steps and fell. On examination distinct motion and crepitus could be felt by pressure over the process, also by placing the thumb over the origin of the Sartorius and rotating the thigh. The fracture extended into the notch below, but there was no great tendency to displacement, save when the leg was abducted, thus placing the Sartorius upon the stretch, the process doubtless, being partially kept in place by the fibres of the Tensor Vaginæ, Femoris, arising from this process on the one hand and Poupart's ligament on the other, when tension was taken off the Sartorius. The patient was placed in bed with the thigh flexed and th eshoulders raised a bandage being applied to aid in steadying the fracture. It may be as well to state that this position and adduction of the right leg was maintained by bands attached to the posts of the bed. In two weeks the patient made a good recovery without displacement.

Although the patient was a very muscular young man, yet it is difficult to believe that the Sartorius is sufficiently powerful to fracture its point of origin, but the case was examined most carefully both by Dr. McWhinnie and myself, and there was no room for doubt about our diagnosis.

Tillsonburg, Ontario, July 25th, 1870.