

the wall. These plates each weighed 450 lbs. The book having fallen between the second and third plates, he undertook to separate them, by pulling two of the plates towards him. He found, however, that they were too heavy and he was forced back with his load, when he tripped on a plank which was behind him, and fell with 900 lbs of metal on the top of his legs. The edge of the plates pressed in his right knee breaking both bones of the leg four and a half inches above the ankle. He was taken home and his boot pulled off, when it was found that the ends of both bones had not only come through the skin, but through a woollen sock as well. The hemorrhage was pretty severe, but yielded at last to pressure and plugging with surgical cotton wool. The wound was dressed in the blood with the surgical wool well sprinkled with iodoform placed over the orifice, the whole being covered with lint and oil silk. It was then placed in a fracture box in which it was kept for four weeks, and carefully watched but the wound never exposed during all that time. Pain was relieved with Wyeth's pellets of morphia. There was no bad odor from the wound, no pus discharged and no elevation of temperature during the whole period.

At the expiration of the four weeks the wound was found almost completely healed, there being only a small granulation about the size of the point of the little finger remaining to shew where the wound had been. This we touched with argent. nit., after which, with the aid of Dr. Smith, we put on a well-fitting plaster of Paris bandage which was left on for seven weeks, after which time it was taken off and the patient furnished with crutches which he used for a time.

Sixteen weeks from the time of the accident he walked by the aid of a staff, and twenty-one weeks from date of fracture began his old business, and has worked at heavy work ever since, and suffers no inconvenience whatever. The present condition of the patient is good; there is no pain in the limb, the union is perfect and there is not the slightest deformity.

The patient was examined by the members of the Association, and the result proved to be an excellent one. Dr. C. strongly recommended the treatment of this formidable accident, which used to be so unsatisfactory, and in many cases fatal, by the plaster bandage aided by iodoform and sealing

the wound in the blood. The treatment of simple fractures of the leg and arm by this method was eminently successful and gave the surgeon very little trouble.

Correspondence.

POST MORTEM AND POST MORTEM.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—As it may be somewhat instructive as well as amusing to your many readers, I thought I would give you a description of a Post Mortem examination recently held in the State of Michigan. This morning I was called upon by a brother knight of the scalpel, and asked to assist him at a P. M., on the body of a child, found dead in bed on the morning of the 31st ult. I accordingly went with him more to see the "performance" than for any other purpose. I might here state that there was to be an *inquest*, by one of the J. P.'s of the Township. After the jury (of six) was assembled and sworn, my colleague and myself proceeded to our part of the work. The body was brought into the room where the inquest was to be held, and "viewed," not only by the jury but by the company at large. My brother of the scalpel produced a jack-knife and what seemed to be a jeweller's tongs (which I found out afterwards to be so.) He then proceeded to make the P. M. He made an incision, from the superior end of the sternum to the tip of the ensiform cartilage. Then dissecting back, he soon had the sternum and cartilages turned over the face of the corpse. He then turned out the right lung and gave the jury a lecture on it, showing the difference between hypo-static congestion and congestion from suffocation. He then proceeded the same way with the left lung. He next raised the heart into view, stating at the same time what he expected to find there, and with his "knife" made two "slashes" into it, and looking very wise, shewed to the admiring jurors and spectators present that *he* was correct. This finished the P. M. He was then duly sworn and gave his evidence accordingly, I was then sworn and had of course to corroborate my senior's evidence. One thing which struck me as being very odd was that the father of the child was absent and was not called as a witness. The J. P. seemed very proud of his position, but ad-