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## *Original Contributions.*

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### COMPLICATIONS OF FRACTURES AND AMPUTATIONS.

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It has been my custom in hospital and private practice to endeavor to demonstrate that conservatism is not only the most humane, but the safest course to pursue, when a limb has been so shattered that the question of amputation may arise; and adopt those means by which, when properly utilized, primary amputation may be abandoned altogether in civil life. The mangled limb has been cleansed, hemorrhage subdued, and comfortable dressings applied, and our patient placed in bed. We wait and observe the limb, for, in many cases, time alone will determine its fate. Now, in order to afford our patient the best prospects, not only is it necessary to clearly understand what the phenomena of mortification and gangrene are, but to anticipate their onset; and should they appear be prepared to intelligently interpret the signs which precede them.

It is likewise highly important that the various phases of asphyxiation or decomposition about to set in are early recognized and actively treated, on such lines as the changes in the anatomical elements indicate. Without being thus prepared for the rational and skilful management of such cases, probably our patient's prospects would have been equally as good, or better, had the damaged limb been immediately sacrificed after injury. It may be observed that immediately after a grave injury to a limb, there are no symptoms or signs by which it is possible to estimate with precision the degree of vitality remaining.