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THE OPEN OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF FRACTURE OF THE PATELLA

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As yet, there is no uniformity of opinion, no uniformity of practice, as to what should be done, as to what is done, in the treatment of fractures of the patella.

For the fractures of this sesamoid bone, the largest in the human body, many different operative methods have been devised, suggested, advocated and practised; numerous are the observations that have been collected and published, descriptive, condemnatory and commendatory of these various methods. However, by far the greater number of the methods proposed have been abandoned, have been superseded by a few less objectionable, more preferable methods. Operative and clinical experience have led to the omission, to the elimination from the operative procedure of such steps as were found to be needless, of such steps as were found to be harmful, and to the introduction, to the general employment, of some of great desirability.

This diversity of methods employed by men of recognized surgical attainments suggested questions to my mind. It is of