

# CANADA MEDICAL JOURNAL.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Compound Dislocation of the Astragalus. Reduction and recovery with a useful limb.* By JAMES A. GRANT, M.D., F.R.C.S., Edinburgh, &c., &c.

J. Moore, aged 35 years, a farmer of robust habit of body, June 24th, 1864, whilst driving a cart to the city his horse took fright, and he was thrown out with violence and dragged for some distance, his foot having caught in the wheel during the fall. He attempted to walk, but was unable, observing that he trod on the outside of the foot, at the same time the suffering was very great. The boot being removed, the following appearances were to be observed. The foot inverted so that the sole looked inwards, tendo-achillis not tense, the astragalus was driven forwards entirely out of its place, where it took a transverse position, and the anterior extremity protruded fully an inch through the integument on the outer side of the foot. On the upper part of the tarsus the skin was stretched tightly over the displaced astragalus. There was no fracture of either the tibia or fibula. There was very little surrounding effusion, so that the outline of the various parts could be well defined. The dislocated bone was thus wrenched from all of its connexions, and thrown transversely across the tarsus. An unsuccessful attempt was made to reduce the dislocation, by extension and pressure. The limb was placed quietly on the bed, and by moderate pressure the bone turned and shot into its place quite unexpectedly. An outside splint was forthwith placed on the leg, and a cold lotion applied over the ankle. An opiate was given at bed time, and the following day he entered the General Protestant Hospital. The cold water cloths were constantly applied until the 8th day after the accident, and then a purulent discharge from the joint having been observed, a linseed poultice was substituted. The discharge continued more or less until the end of August, at which time the wound