

FRACTURE OF THE VERTEBRAL COLUMN—REDUCTION OF THE DISPLACED FRAGMENTS—RECOVERY.

The *Bulletin Médical du Nord de la France* records a case of fracture of the vertebral column, in which the displaced fragments—corresponding to the twelfth dorsal and first lumbar vertebræ—were reduced in the following manner :—The injured man was laid upon his face ; four assistants made extension by drawing down the inferior extremities, and two others held the body by the arm-pits. Three tractions were necessary, during which the surgeon (M. Parise), employed himself in reducing the fragments, at first by pressure with his fingers, then with the palms of his hands, and, finally, with his knee, leaning with almost the entire weight of his body. The complete paralysis of motion and sensibility of the lower limbs entirely and at once disappeared, and the power of micturition and defecation were restored in a few days. The patient was kept on his back in bed, in a state of absolute immobility, and, at the end of sixty-three days, he was able to get up and walk about the Ward.—*La Tribune Médicale*.

STONE IN THE FEMALE BLADDER ; REMOVAL BY DILATATION ; RECOVERY.

(Under the care of Mr. COWELL.)

On the 11th ult., Mr. Cowell removed by dilatation a stone from the bladder of a woman sixty years of age. The dilator used was a small one with three blades. The case was one of some interest. The patient had, upwards of two years ago, been in the hospital for some two or three months under the care of Dr. Basham with pyelitis. A few months later she had attended the hospital after passing gravel, accompanied by great pain, and some bleeding after micturition. About twelve months ago she returned to the hospital bringing with her a small piece of bone which she stated had been passed from the bladder. On examination, this proved to be, not human bone, but bone belonging to some animal of the bovine species. There was then considerable doubt as to its having come from the bladder ; but three months later she brought two other small pieces of bone, both of which were to some slight degree coated with calcareous deposit. This seemed to set at rest the previous doubt, but it was also certain that this bone must have been introduced into the bladder. The patient had passed no more fragments of bone since, but had returned to the hospital in consequence of continued pain in the back and frequent desire to void urine, an act always followed by severe