

CASE I.—*Compound Fracture of the Bones of the Tarsus, involving the Ankle-joint.—Amputation.*

F. C., æt. 68, labourer, was sent by Dr. Trenholme to the Montreal General Hospital, on the afternoon of September 10th, 1877, suffering from certain injuries caused by the falling on him of a load of earth. The old man had an extremely feeble pulse, extremities cold, face blanched, and he appeared to be in a very drowsy, semi-conscious condition, although the pupils were normal and responded well to light. I saw him within an hour of the accident, and on examination found fracture of both malleoli of the left leg, and comminution of the inner border of the astragalus and scaphoid bones, with a large wound on the inside of the foot communicating with the fractured parts and with the ankle-joint. Besides, there was a great deal of bruising of the whole dorsum of the foot, and a large effusion of blood under the integument of this part. He had also two scalp wounds—one on the frontal and the other over the occipital region—caused probably by his falling against a stone. I thought that some slight depression of the bone existed in the frontal wound, but of this I could not satisfy myself positively.

Notwithstanding the adverse circumstances in connection with the age, debilitated condition of the patient and the serious nature of the injury, I decided on making an attempt to save the foot by the "Antiseptic Method." Accordingly, with the able assistance of our late lamented House Surgeon, Dr. Cline, I proceeded as follows:—The steam spray producer being directed over the part, I first injected by means of a catheter a one-to-five spirit solution of carbolic acid into every crevice of the wound and between the broken bones, as a large quantity of gravel and filth had been ground into the part by the accident, and placed there by his fellow-labourers with the view of arresting hæmorrhage. I then washed the entire foot thoroughly with a one-to-twenty carbolic solution, being especially careful to cleanse the clefts between the toes, which, by-the-way, were much bruised and lacerated. A piece of the largest size (No. 1), drainage tube, employed by Mr. Lister, was now carried to the bottom of the wound, having been first soaked in the one-to-