

and is now able to set the foot to the ground, and bear her whole weight on the limb. She has grown considerably, but the limb does not increase in length in the same proportion as its fellow. This result I do not think is entirely due to removal of the epiphyses or their injury by the operation, since the previously existing disease must have had much influence in arresting the development of the limb. However, the patient has a limb, such as it is, with an ankle joint and foot, both of which, as time advances, will increase in efficiency and usefulness; whereas, had she merely a stump, the result of amputation, her condition would remain ever the same. So much, then, for the influence of age in the results of this operation; not only is it admitted to be most fatal in children, but the other considerations are of the highest consequence, as affecting the after usefulness of the limb in its arrest of development.

*Constitutional condition.*--I have already stated my conviction that excision of the knee joint is an operation of greater magnitude than that of amputation. From this I fancy there are few that will dissent. It is attended with a much longer confinement to bed, a longer period of absolute restraint in one position (on the back), which is very irksome; besides, we have the long continued suppuration and sometimes the burrowing of matter and formation of sinuses, in all instances requiring constant attention, and being also a great drain on the patient's powers of repair. Hence, in the selection of cases for excision, the surgeon should be careful to ascertain that he has no slumbering evil, no incipient or developed disease of the lungs, kidneys, or other viscera. After excision, the condition of the patient is such, that greater demands are made upon his reparative powers, and upon his ability to resist the long-continued suppuration which so frequently accompanies these cases. "It should be a golden rule," writes Swain, "one of the few without exceptions, that tubercle of the lung contra-indicates excision of the knee." It is true that Mr. Price reports a case of successful excision of the knee in a phthisical patient. This, however, must be regarded, as Mr. Swain truly observes, "as an exceptional case, one of those solitary instances of good luck, and good management as well, because the patient made a rapid recovery." In another case, also reported by Price, the patient developed acute phthisis and died. The condition of the heart and kidneys should always be ascertained before deciding on an operation for excision of the knee. Mr. Savory, on this