

A CASE OF NECROSIS FOLLOWING A COMPOUND FRACTURE.

OPERATION WITH ANTISEPTIC PRECAUTIONS—AN EXCELLENT RESULT.

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(Prepared for the late meeting of the Canadian Medical Association at Banff.)

Mr. President and Gentlemen—We humbly submit the following report of a surgical case in practice, which we hope may be of some interest to the members of this Association, meeting here by the health-giving waters of Banff, in the shadow of the world's crest—the far-famed “Rocky Mountains.”

History.—The patient, D. M. R., is a native of Canada, and 35 years of age. In December, 1881, while working in the lumber woods of Michigan, he met with an accident, resulting in a compound fracture of the right tibia. He said that the bones protruded through the skin in *four* places, while the doctor affirmed that the bone was broken in no fewer than *six* places.

He was over 100 miles from surgical aid. He was conveyed by the following means. He was carried five miles, taken in a waggon ten miles, and rode the rest of the journey in the van of a lumber train.

He was treated in St. Mary's Hospital, Saginaw. Seventeen days after the accident the limb was put up in a plaster bandage, and he was sent home to Whitby, in Canada, where Dr. Fields took off the cast and put the leg in a fracture box.

He was able to walk with crutches in 12 weeks from date of fracture, and in 6½ months resumed work. Nine months afterwards he was troubled with pain at seat of fracture, after which pus formed. In March, 1885, he was laid up four weeks with local pain accompanied with fever and formation of pus. In March, 1888, he jarred his leg, and was treated by Dr. Evans, who painted the part with collodion and wanted to lance it. In september, 1888, he suffered again, when the writer attended him. The part was painted with tr. iod. co., the limb was raised, and the part afterwards lanced down to the bone. After two weeks he partially recovered.

We proposed to make a long incision down to the bone, so as to enable us to examine it thoroughly, and, if necessary,