

THE
BRITISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

OF

MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE.

VOL. V.]

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER, 1849.

[No. 5.]

ART. XIX.—CASE OF COMMINUTED FRACTURE OF THE PELVIS, WITH SYMPTOMS OF FRACTURE OF THE CERVIX FEMORIS. UNION OF THE BONES COMPLETE BY THE SIXTEENTH WEEK. THE PATIENT ON THE EVE OF DISCHARGE WHEN HE IS ATTACKED WITH TYPHUS FEVER, DEATH FOLLOWING IN FIVE DAYS. NECROSCOPICAL APPEARANCES, SHOWING FRACTURE THROUGH THE ACETABULUM, WITH ELONGATION OF HEAD OF FEMUR OF AFFECTED SIDE, FROM DEPOSITS OF BONE.

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(Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society, 4th Aug., 1849.)

Barney Fitzpatrick, ætat 61, an old soldier of intemperate habits, lean and spare, of short stature and nervo-bilious temperament, was carried into the wards of the Montreal General Hospital, on Tuesday, the 12th August, 1845, having fallen about an hour previously, from a considerable height, upon some stones below, sustaining a very severe comminuted and complicated fracture of the pelvis.

He had been working as a laborer at the new market buildings, Commissioners' Street, and whilst helping a mason to adjust some cut stones on the upper part of the wall of the second story, his footing gave way, and he was precipitated into the street in the midst of a lot of loose stones and rubbish,—the height of the fall being nearly eighteen feet. He was shortly after the accident removed to the Hospital.

As he laid on the bed, after removing his clothes he presented the appearance of a person suffering very great agony; his breathing was hurried and anxious, he was very restless, was moaning and groaning continuously from pain, and his pulse was feeble, irregular, and of a fluttering character. The least motion of the trunk or extremities was difficult and painful. His right foot was everted, and the entire limb laid on its external surface. On laying hold of the thigh or leg to examine the fracture, the pain induced was so great that the patient shrieked as if in perfect torture. It was found that the pelvis was most extensively fractured on its right side; on moving the thigh and pressing the hand above the acetabulum, several portions of broken bone were felt quite moveable, the posterior

part of the ilium was found to be fractured, as also the ischium of the same side, and considerable difficulty existed in diagnosing, whether the neck of the right femur was fractured; as, in addition to the eversion of the foot, there was shortening to the extent of one inch and a half; the trochanter major was nearer the anterior superior spinous process than on the sound side; on rotating the limb, the trochanter major appeared to move in the segment of a smaller circle than that of the left, and, lastly, crepitus was distinctly felt and heard in the joint itself. The leg could not be extended to the same length as the sound one, neither could the leg be inverted, but on attempting to do so crepitus was distinctly felt, and excruciating pain induced. The patient did not remember in what position he struck the ground, but from the existing symptoms he must have fallen on the right ischium and thigh; as, in addition to the fracture of the former, there was most extensive ecchymosis which had extended on to the thigh posteriorly.

Dr. Sewell, into whose service the patient was placed, ordered both legs to be tied together, and a firm roller to be applied around the pelvis. An anodyne draught of tinct. opii. at bed time, and the daily allowance of a pint of beer, which was changed next day to wine.

On applying the bandage around the pelvis and hips, it seemed as if a quantity of loose bones were being tied together; crepitus could be heard quite loudly, and the pain and suffering endured by the unfortunate patient were great in the extreme.

30th Aug.—From the restlessness of the patient, his bandages became frequently loosened, and had to be as often reapplied. The method which answered best, was a wide and firm circular band, applied around the hips, with a number of tails sewed thereto, which were brought around the thighs and perineum and fastened to the band above. He has not been free from pain since admission, and anodynes are nightly given to produce sleep. Occasionally the catheter has been used to empty the bladder, but no injury to that viscus or the urethra occurred at the time of the accident. A few days after admission he passed some blood in his stools, but there was no apparent lesion of the rectum. Ordered half a pint of brandy daily, in addition to his wine.

Sept. 5.—Three and a half weeks after the accident. Is more quiet and his health improved. Effusion of callus is now being perceived.

Dec. 3.—After recovering from the effects of the fracture, and being able to limp about with the aid of a stick, the right foot shorter than the left, the poor