

ture of the femur, complicated with wounded blood-vessels, which behaved in a simple manner, and was getting better by a conservative process, if the septic infection had not forced the surgeon to interfere, and, even then, the simple opening up and cleansing of the pocket sufficed to put the fracture in a favorable way, and restore the patient to health.

We may, therefore, conclude that, in military surgery, cases of fracture of the femur, even when comminuted and complicated with a lesion of the blood-vessels, may be treated in a conservative manner; and that amputation need not be the rule, as was the custom heretofore.

J. J. C.

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### THE LEBEL RIFLE.

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#### LE PROJECTILE LEBEL—FAIT SAUTER LA CERVELLE.

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THIS famous arm, which has been for some years past used in the French military service, seems calculated to increase the mortality, arising from unshot wounds inflicted in battle. We cannot say if the new six-millimetre rifle, with which the German Government has decided to re-arm its infantry, inflicts wounds as destructive as the French arm. Should it be so, then the next campaign between France and Germany will be remarkable for the number of combatants slain on the field, or so injured as to be of little interest to the army surgeon. As illustrative of the destructive injuries inflicted by the Lebel rifle, at short range, we quote the following from our esteemed contemporary, *La Presse Medicale*:

"A French surgeon, M. B. Szmiglielski, who served as a soldier during the Dahomey campaign in 1891, and was seriously wounded, has written the medical history of that campaign, as his inaugural thesis, and gives some interesting details of the wounds inflicted by the Lebel rifle. He shows that the penetrating force of the Lebel bullet is surprising. At the battle of Dogba, September 19th, 1891, the Dahomeans, covered by the Arabs, advanced to within twenty metres of the French camp. After the battle one could see three dead bodies of the enemy, one behind the other, all bearing penetrating wounds, at the same height from the ground, and inflicted by one bullet, which, prior to striking them had passed through the trunk of a palm tree.