

humble opinion, why in this case, the mind was intact to the last, although the white softening must have reduced considerably its volume if we look at it as a cause of mental power.

Now, another question may arise, whether that woman could have been saved, if trepanning had been performed at the first epileptic seizure. M. Flourens, in a communication to the *Academie of Sciences* in Paris, relates a case nearly resembling the present, except the date of the first bad symptoms, which was nearer from the injury, being the 25th day after trepanning was performed, a large abscess made its way out and the patient was saved. He related another case of a young man from whose skull a large amount of brain substance issued, without at all impairing his mind, proving thenceforth that it is not so much the volume and weight of the brain that incapacitates the mind, but then a special endowment to the intellectual principle given by the Creator of all things.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of contributors.—Eds.

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## HOSPITAL REPORTS.

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SURGICAL CASES OCCURRING IN THE PRACTICE OF THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL, UNDER THE CARE OF G. E. FENWICK, M.D.

*Case 1. —Myeloid disease of the Femur—Amputation of Thigh—Acupressure—Secondary Hæmorrhage—Recovery.* Reported by  
Mr. JOHN H. MATHIESON.

Walter Smith, æt. 26, married, of spare-habit, fair skin, red hair, and formerly a farmer, but for the past few years employed in an engine house, was admitted into the Montreal General Hospital August 15th, 1870, with disease of the lower extremity of the right femur. His constitution, though not strong, has never suffered from any severe illness.

About a year ago, he first noticed sharp pricking pains in the right knee, with nocturnal exacerbations. The joint gradually became weaker, and a false step, a slip, or any trivial injury, was followed by great pain and lameness, lasting sometimes for several days. No excess of heat, swelling or discoloration, however, was noticed. On the 25th of December, 1869, he got a kick from a colt in the popliteal space; the knee swelled up almost immediately to an enormous size. A surgeon was sent for, who pronounced it dislocation of the knee (?), and reduced it by