

the thousand of our first issue became two at the second, and nearly three at the third; and of this the fourth number we have received from our printer, five thousand, and find it far from adequate to meet the end in view, which can only be attained by striking off those from our list, who after a second number, still remain undecided to sustain the paper. This resolution will be strictly adopted with number five. We shall however endeavour to mail an index of our first volume to every physician in Canada, at the end of the year.

Interesting Cases.

COMPLICATED FRACTURE OF THE ARM. By Wm. H. Hingston, M.D., L.R.C.S.E. Fellow of the Leopol Academy, &c. One of the Surgeons to the Hôtel-Dieu, Montreal.

The following case is interesting principally in its sequelæ.

J. S., a healthy man, æt 38, received an injury of the arm, from a fall, on 15th November, 1861, which produced a compound fracture of the humerus. The protruding end of the bone was removed, and the parts were restored to position. The arm continued to be painful and swollen; after a time openings formed near the site of injury, and severe erysipelatous inflammation, once, and less violent inflammation, several times, occurred. These received proper care and attention at the hands of several physicians during a lengthy stay in a neighbouring charity. The condition of the part still continuing to cause much pain and uneasiness, and the arm to be useless, the patient sought entrance to the *Hôtel-Dieu*, under my care, on the 11th May, 1863, eighteen months after the primary injury. On his admission, the lower third of arm, and the upper third of forearm were much discoloured; the hand and lower part of forearm were cold, and the former was much shrunken and of a blue colour. The arm was about two inches shorter than the other, and the elbow firmly ankylosed in a straight position. Two openings communicated with the humerus, one about two inches above the olecranon, and another directly opposite the joint in front; through both openings dead bone could be felt. The radial pulse was almost imperceptible. This condition of things satisfied me that free arterial and venous circulation were interfered with; and that the median nerve was pressed upon in some part of its course; and determined me, with the approval of my confrères, to attempt removal of the dead bone where it could be most easily reached—namely, from the front. I accordingly made a free incision through the skin at the bend of the elbow, and feeling my way carefully along the biceps, separated the tendon of that muscle from its strong aponeurotic expansion, using my left index finger as a director. Through the opening made, I was enabled, without further injury to the soft parts, but not without difficulty, to seize upon and remove about two inches of the whole thickness of the shaft of the humerus. No untoward circumstance attended or followed the operation.

It would appear, that, at the time of injury, the portion of the humerus now removed had been separated from the shaft above, and from the condyles below; that, in some way, difficult to understand, the comminuted piece had been so completely dislodged from its position, as to permit the approximation of the two main pieces of bone;

and that, while suppuration had been established in the comminuted piece causing its death, the living ends, impeded, no doubt, but not entirely checked in their effort at union, by the presence of the dying or dead bone, continued their healthy action till it terminated in perfect union: the dead bone, meanwhile, continuing to give great discomfort by its presence, and even to jeopardize the entire limb.

That it is always advisable to cut down upon dead bone, or foreign bodies of any kind, *à travers* tissues so important as those to be met with at the bend of the elbow, and to run the risk of wounding them I am myself disposed to doubt; but the condition of things satisfied me that the shortest way to reach the offending body was probably the best, and perhaps not the most hazardous.

(June 14th.) The entire disappearance of pain, lividity and coldness in the hand and fingers; and of heat and swelling near the site of the injury; and the complete re-establishment of the radial pulse, are satisfactory evidence of the restoration of integrity in the nerves and blood vessels in the neighborhood of the joint.

10 Bonaventure st., MONTREAL, 15th June, 1863.

New Books.

Practical Handbook of Medical Chemistry, by John E. Bowman, F.C.S., edited by C. L. Bloxam, Professor of Practical Chemistry, in King's College, London, 3rd Am. from 4th Lond. ed. Blanchard & Lea, Phil., royal, 12 mo., pp. 350, \$1.25.

We hail with much pleasure a new edition of our favourite little author, and this too from the hands of such an able reviser. It has been our guide for years, and well do we bear in mind how in our hard working college days we so often referred to its numerous illustrations, and to its concise and handy rules for the examination of urine, when we had no time to study any thing but what was short and to the point. Here then it is again with all the new discoveries and processes, ever fresh and ready to teach the young, and remind the old, that this important fluid must not be neglected. Its pages are not however confined alone to a treatise on the urine, but comprise practical rules for the detection of poisons in organic mixtures, and essays on the blood, bile, mucus, &c. In conclusion, we need only say that we wish for it the success it deserves.

Chemistry, by W. T. Brande, D.C.L. F.R.S.L. & E., of her Majesty's Mint, and Alfred Swaine Taylor, M.D. F.R.S. Professor of Chemistry and Medical Jurisprudence in Guy's Hospital. London, Philadelphia, Blanchard & Lea, 8 vo., pp. 696, cl. \$3.50.

This work is intended as a handbook for students, and as an introduction to chemistry for the general reader. It abounds in innumerable interesting facts not to be found elsewhere; and from the masterly manner in which every subject is handled, with its pleasing mode of describing even the driest details, it cannot fail to prove acceptable, not only to those for whom it is intended, but to the profession at large. The entire absence of wood cuts, is however an unusual feature in elementary productions of this kind at the present day, and a few chapters on electricity, would have greatly enhanced the value of the work. These omissions will tend much to lessen its chance of success as a college book, and to retain Fownes' little work still, the formidable competitor for public patronage.