

Lauder Brunton, to incise a narrowed mitral orifice. These ideas seem to us wild and impracticable, but in this age one cannot afford to put aside these proposals without careful thought. One may, however, probably with a saving of any little reputation he may have, adopt Oliver Wendell Holmes' advice when he said, "And with new notions—let me change the rule—don't strike the iron till it's slightly cool."

Electricity is becoming more and more useful. In the diagnosis and treatment of fracture the X-ray machine is certainly most helpful. It shows us the relation of the fragments to each other and later on it shows us whether or not we have been successful in getting them into correct apposition. This is so far so good. It serves in addition a most useful purpose in enabling us to decide what fractures may be properly treated by the open method. My plan is to take a radiograph of all simple fractures before any attempt is made at reduction. A second picture shows how far we have been successful in effecting reduction. If this second radiograph shows the fragments to be in satisfactory apposition, well and good. If they are not, the radiograph is shown to the patient and he is told that we cannot do better unless he permits us to make an incision and bring them together. The dangers of incision are fully explained as well as the deformity and limitation of movement likely to result if the fragments are left as they are. The patient may then elect to remain as he is, to submit to treatment by the open method, or to go elsewhere if he thinks someone else can do better for him. This plan I have found most satisfactory in preventing the development of strained relations between himself and his surgeon. It also prevents what otherwise might occur—one of those worrying and unseemly suits for malpractice, which fortunately are rare in our Dominion.

My experience in reducing fractures by the open method has taught me that in many instances it is impossible to reduce them otherwise satisfactorily. I have often after exposing the fragments asked students to make extension, using as much force as seemed justifiable and yet the overlapping or riding was not altogether overcome, the ends only being brought accurately together by the use of levers or by bending the limb and then straightening it, and all this time the patients were under the influence of a general anæsthetic. I have the most profound sympathy for the man who fails to perfectly reduce a simple fracture. In many instances he simply fails to accomplish the impossible under the circumstances and with the means at his command.

But electricity in the form of the X-ray machine or in the form of high tension currents is, I believe, destined to become of great therapeutic value, particularly in lupus, cutaneous epitheliomas and pro-