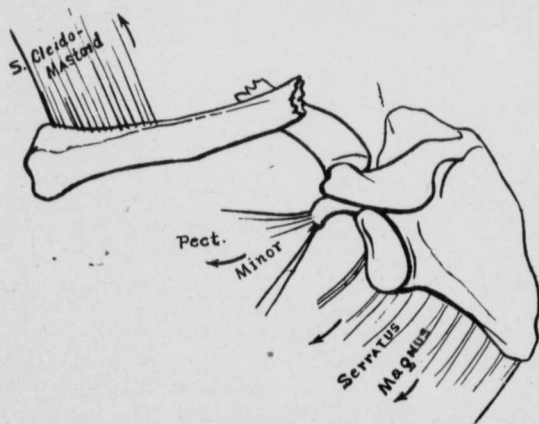


inwards. If the fracture be situated at either end of the clavicle the displacement is, as a rule, inconsiderable, and, when occurring at the sternal extremity, it is advisable to bear in mind the fact that, although ossification occurs in this bone at an earlier period than in any other, yet the sternal end is cartilaginous until the age of eighteen, at which time a centre appears and unites with the rest of the bone about the age of twenty-five, hence, it is quite possible, in a patient under twenty-five, that the injury has caused a separation of the epiphysis, rather than a fracture. This *epiphyseal separation*, may be diagnosed, partly from the age of the patient, and partly from the fact that the inner end of the outer fragment would be smooth



(No. 1.)

Diagram illustrating Fracture of the Clavicle viewed from above.

and rounded, rather than sharply irregular, as it is in fracture.

In children, the seat of fracture is generally about the middle of the bone, since, in them, the curves are less dis-