

threaten the patient with hectic, then the exsection of the head of the femur is justifiable and appropriate.

Fortunately the rational and successful treatment of morbus coxarius, lessens the exigency of that operation, and to this fact we may ascribe the present rarity of its performance.

Notwithstanding the avowed aversion of French surgeons to this operation, it cannot be denied that it has furnished a fair statistic of success, and that it has saved the life of many a patient, which otherwise would have been lost.

Of the seventeen partial exsections of the hip joint which I have performed in the course of my surgical career, nine were attended by recovery and two are still under treatment.

The limbs have been shortened from one to three inches.

With the exception of one case, the sclerotic tissue formed between the acetabulum and the shaft of the femur, permitted a moderate mobility and is strong enough to bear the superincumbent weight of the body.

That case concerns a young lady upon whom I operated in the year 1856 when she was nine years of age. Owing to monstrous obesity, the intermediate substance has never become firm. I have seen this patient but lately, she has grown to be a handsome and healthy woman; and I have again had an opportunity of examining into her condition. When she stands on her right limb, the mere weight of her left suffices to bring it to its full length. But if she rests upon the latter, the intermediate substance bends outwards and allows the shaft of the femur to come in contact with the acetabulum, by which the limb is three inches shortened. In this position she can bear the entire weight of the body upon the affected side. My apparatus gives her the desired support for locomotion, and with it her gait is easy and graceful.

I apprehend that some of the exsections which I have performed, have been under rather unfavourable circumstances, and yet withal the conjoint result is anything but discouraging; some of my patients died of other diseases (two of laryngeal diphtheria, and one of cerebral meningitis) evidently connected with the impoverished state of their respective nutrition.

Though I am not a great admirer of exsection of the hip joint, nevertheless I honestly believe that its performance when warranted by the anatomical changes of the joint, bids as fair a chance of success as the exsection of any other joint. It is scarcely necessary to remove carious portions of the acetabulum unless very accessible, for the nutrition of that portion of the pelvis is unimpaired, and inasmuch as it remains accessible to local appliances, it becomes soon repaired.