

then reflected inwards, giving admirable access to all parts. The clots were first removed from the knee joint and then after a great deal of difficulty, with the aid of two assistants and the powerful leverage of large forceps, the three fragments were fitted nicely together. Two ordinary three-inch wire nails were driven transversely through the condyles, one from either side, thus holding them firmly together. The shaft was then secured to the united condyles by means of a steel plate on the outer side and held in place by four half-inch screws. The two portions of the patellar tendon were sewn together by three mattress sutures of chromic catgut and the whole wound closed without drainage. A back splint was then applied, the knee being slightly flexed. This splint was removed in two weeks and passive movements commenced, and four weeks later the patient was around on crutches.

It was then found that there was little active extension possible at the knee joint, owing to a slackness of the ligamentum patellae. To correct this, a strong silver wire was put through between the lower end of the patella and the tubercle of the tibia, at the same time a portion of the patellar tendon was removed and the two ends brought together again. In one week he could extend the leg perfectly. Unfortunately the patient fell three weeks later and a skiagraph showed the wire to be broken in two places. These fragments of wire caused some irritation and have since been removed through two tiny incisions without an anesthetic. It would have been wiser not to have cut the ligamentum patella, but to have chiselled off the tubercle of the tibia with the tendon attached and to have wired the fragment of bone again into position.

At the present time, four months after the injury, the patient is walking with firm union at the seat of fracture and with a freely movable knee joint.

By no other method than an open operation would it have been possible to have brought these badly displaced fragments together, and to have secured such good functional results.

45 Bloor St. E., Toronto.