

piece of catgut to be tied round the bones so as to keep them in the closest apposition, and I have little doubt but that good results would follow. The case I have alluded to above, is as follows: "Alex. Lackie, æt 16, a healthy lad living in the country, was engaged chopping when a limb of a falling tree struck him on the right arm, fracturing the humerus three or four inches above the elbow-joint. The nearest professional assistance was distant some 8 miles, and when the attending surgeon arrived, it was put up in the usual way, with four splints, and properly supported with a sling. Five weeks were allowed to elapse ere it was examined again, and after another five weeks, his mother removed the splints, and it was discovered that not the slightest attempt at union had taken place. Rubbing the ends of the bones was employed, and the splints were re-applied for three weeks, but still no improvement; friction was again resorted to but with no better success. Then a seton was inserted and retained for about a fortnight, still no improvement; from the appearance of the eschar the needle did not seem to have transfixed the fractured portions. Just twelve months after the accident he was put under my care; at that date the arm was much smaller than its fellow consequent on muscular wasting; its outline from the acromion process to the elbow was perfectly straight, whilst the limb hung perpendicularly to the side, but immediately he tried to bend it, the angular projections of the separated humerus were visible to the eye, and on examination by the hand it was found to possess all the liberty of motion of an enarthrodial articulation. The ends of the separated portions seemed somewhat rounded and smooth, but their middle parts seemed to be connected in some way by a kind of semi-cartilaginous or ligamentous growth; there was not the least appearance of callus. In examining the limb even roughly, no pain was caused, but it was perfectly useless, and of course had so remained since the receipt of the injury.

The treatment of such a case really left nothing to be done except resection, and accordingly I performed the following operation, kindly assisted by Dr. Alfred Morson, and staff surgeon Laing. Under the influence of chloroform just at this time coming into general use, an incision $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long was made in the axis of the arm, beginning just below the insertion of the deltoid muscle on

the outside of the arm, and continued to nearly one inch and a half to the external condyle, in a line corresponding with the junction of the brachialis internus and biceps muscle. This free incision was carried down to the bone, both ends of which were carefully dissected out; care being taken to protect the brachial vessels and other important structures from injury; a very thin lamina of the smoothed surface of each end of the humerus was then removed by an ordinary saw, and the parts put as nicely together as possible. The edges of the wound were brought together with a few sutures, and the arm flexed at the elbow, was then done up in a pasteboard apparatus that had been previously adapted. About the end of the tenth week, union was complete; of course during this time, the greatest care was taken to keep the limb quiet and the bones in good apposition, and also advantage was taken of the previous hint afforded of the possibility of his constitution not being disposed to deposit lime, to correct which he was ordered daily a solution of the muriate of lime, and plenty of nourishment and beer. The case turned out to perfection. The shortening was only to the extent of about half an inch; the muscles regained their former size and shape under exercise and he could chop or perform any hard work as if no accident ever had interfered to prevent it.

UNIFICATION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IN MEDICINE.

(Translated from *Le Progrès Médical*.)

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We are living at a period when science tends more and more to become international. The scientific men of to-day no longer work only for the corner of the globe which has been their birth-place. In proportion as intellectual relations have been facilitated and multiplied between different countries, the ideal of mind workers has risen; their horizon has broadened and they have a consciousness of labouring at a common work, for the accomplishment of which there will be no redundancy of effort or good will. But in order that this concurrence of activities should be truly efficacious, it is indispensable that the procedures employed should everywhere be as identical as

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