

THE

MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL

VOL. XX.

MARCH, 1892.

No. 9.

Original Communications.

TRAUMATIC SEPARATION OF THE LOWER EPIPHYSIS OF THE FEMUR.*

BY JOHN M. ELDER, B.A., M.D.C.M.,
Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy, McGill University.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—The scant attention given to the subject of separation of the condyloid epiphysis of the femur by the standard works on surgery, coupled with a conviction that the accident is not as rare as was at one time supposed, has led me to hope that a short paper on this subject might prove interesting to the members of this Association, and at the same time might add somewhat to our knowledge on this question. In connection with the paper I am fortunately able to show you an example of this surgical accident in the person of this young man; and I think, when you hear the report of his case, you will agree that he is fortunate in being able to carry with him this specimen, at one time the lower diaphysis of his femur, even if he has to do so in his pocket.

In a clinical lecture on the surgery of the epiphysis, delivered in 1885,† Wheelhouse drew attention to the important part played by the epiphyses in all dislocations and fractures in the neighbourhood of joints, and hinted that many supposed cases of dislocations in young persons have really been fractures through the epiphyseal line, as shown by the frequency with which de-

* A paper, with illustrative case, read before the Canadian Medical Association, at Montreal, September, 1891.

† British Medical Journal, Vol. I, 1885, p. 475.