

Comminuted fracture.

Comminuted fracture is where there is a breaking of the bone into a number of pieces, and no external orifice.

Compound comminuted fracture.

Compound comminuted fracture is where the bone is broken into a number of small pieces, and they injure the surrounding tissues, thus causing an external orifice.

Our patients difficult to treat for fracture.

The readjustment of the broken parts of bone and the keeping of them in their proper places is a difficult thing in our patients, as they are very restive, and the re-union is a very slow process. Fracture of the elbow is generally rather a formidable affair. Inflammation is first set up in the re-union of a bone, tending to throw out the plasma or fibrinous parts of the blood, and this temporarily unites the edges of the bone; after a time, when inflammation has passed away, we get an absorption of this temporary callous, and a replacement of osseous or bony matter; this is called the permanent or stationary callous. I shall now mention the different fractures, with their treatment, if any can be advised.

The way in which nature unites the broken bones.

Fore leg.

*The Scapula, or Blade Bone.*—This is a flat bone, having a spine on it, which may be fractured some distance from the joint with bone next to it—the humerus—and when this bone becomes fractured a cure may be anticipated. If the fracture be small, and not near the joint, take the piece of fractured bone out and the rest will heal.

Humerus.

The humerus is the bone next to the blade bone, and when that bone is broken badly you can scarcely ever treat it, as the horse will not be much use for work if you do, and it is so covered with flesh that it would be very hard to treat it successfully. I should advise that if this bone is fractured badly, he should be destroyed.

*The Ulna, or Point of the Elbow.*—Great difficulty is attendant upon the normal re-union of this bone, on account of the muscular action upon it. Place your patient in slings, thus taking off all the weight from the limb, and keep him as quiet as possible.

Radius, or the long bone above the knee.

*Radius, or the Long Bone above the Knee.*—This is a bone commonly fractured, and there are cases in which a perfect cure has been effected. The course of treatment to be advised, when the fracture is not a very bad one, is, firstly, to thoroughly examine the case; place the animal in slings, then adjust splints made pretty well to the shape of the limb, not too tightly so as to stop circulation; constantly foment the parts; give laxative medicines and succulent diet; after a few days, when the inflammation has passed away, take off your splints and put on a starched bandage. This is all you can do besides watching your case.