

DOUBLE CONICAL STUMP FOLLOWING AMPUTATION OF BOTH ARMS IN UTERO.

BY WALTER MCKEOWN, B.A., M.D., M.R.C.S. (ENG.), TORONTO.

Johnny M. was brought to me by his mother, complaining of pain at the ends of two little wing-like appendages, which he called his arms. He was then sixteen years of age, and a boy of more than ordinary intelligence. The head and trunk were normal, but all four limbs were extraordinary. Both arms had apparently been amputated near the shoulder; the right leg was normal, as was the left as high as the knee-joint, but the femur was greatly shortened, so much so that it felt like a round ball. The left femur was longer, but still short, and when the boy stood in the position usually assumed by him when standing or walking, the long axis of the bone was horizontal rather than vertical. This position was adopted to some extent to equalize the length of the two limbs, but in the right leg also the thigh was held at a right angle to the trunk. The thigh muscles, on account of the increased strain constantly put upon them to maintain the weight of the body, were enormously developed.

The pain in the "arms" was caused by the protrusion of the humerus through the skin and the consequent irritation and ulceration. It was really a case of double conical stump, the bone having grown more rapidly than the soft parts and pushed its way through. I sent him to St. Michael's Hospital, where I removed about an inch and a half from the bone on each side. Considering his age it is unlikely to recur.

I am not a believer in maternal impressions, but this boy's history was interesting, even if only as an example of coincidence. His mother told me that sometime before his birth when she was three months pregnant, she was going across the Bathurst St. bridge here, as was her daily custom, with her husband's dinner, when her attention was attracted to the tracks below by the shouts of some workmen. She ran to the side of the bridge, and looking over saw a man lying at the side of the track who had a moment before been knocked down by an engine and both legs cut off. She was so horrified that she immediately fainted, and remembered nothing more until she awakened at her own house. She had been carried home and a doctor sent for.

The physician was Dr. Moorhouse. He attended her in her confinement, and he tells me he has a distinct recollection of the facts. At the time he first saw her there was nothing specially noted, but when the woman was confined the child born was without arms. Dr. Moorhouse was surprised when I informed him