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Case of Impacted Intracapsular Fracture of the Neck of the Thigh Bone.

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On the 2nd July, 1868, I was summoned to the Protestant House of Industry and Refuge to see an old man named John H., æt. 79, who had slipped and fallen on the floor, and was said to have been bruised on the hip. I found him lying in bed where he had been lifted, complaining of pain over the region of the left hip: he was unable to stand upright and the attempt to do so gave pain. There was no shortening, and very slight eversion of the foot. I was not satisfied that there was fracture, so prescribed an evaporating lotion and saw him the next day. There was now marked eversion of the foot, some shortening and considerable swelling over the hip-joint, which was painful. I had him removed at once to the Montreal General Hospital, where he was placed under the care of Dr. Wright. Upon proper extension and rotation by an assistant distinct crepitus was now got. This confirmed the diagnosis of intracapsular fracture of the neck of the femur. He was laid upon a hair mattress and moderate extension was made by means of a pulley and weight, the limb being steadied by a light splint placed along the outer side. This was kept up for between three and four weeks when, it having become irksome and a small bed sore having been formed, it was discontinued, but he was still confined to bed. In two weeks more he was allowed to get up—the slight bed sore soon healed, his appetite improved somewhat, but his general health remained very poor. He never could bear any weight whatever on the limb, and there was shortening about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. On the 12th October he was discharged from the hospital, returning to the institution whence he had been brought. From this time he gradually failed, and finally died on the 16th November, 1869, 137 days after the accident.