

newly-built bridge over the St. John river at Andover, N. B., when the bridge gave way under the weight of an engine and a car-load of iron rails, and he, with a few others, was precipitated into the stream twenty-five feet below. There had been some doubt expressed as to the solidity of the structure, and the conductor stood ready to disconnect the car from the engine on the first indication of any yielding from the weight of the latter. While attempting to draw the iron pin so as to accomplish this object, the whole train went down together. The accident occurred on Oct. 12th, 1875, and after his rescue from the water he was immediately attended by Dr. Beveridge, of Andover, who also called to his aid Dr. Decker, of Fort Fairfield, Maine. On examination, they found a simple fracture of right thigh, two fractures of the lower jaw, simple fracture of both radii, and compound fractures of both patellae. The fracture of thigh was put up with coaptation splints and Liston's long outside one. The jaw was treated by the ordinary splint and bandage. The usual anterior splints were used for the Colles' fractures. Adhesive plaster was applied in strips to the wounds over patellae.

I was summoned to see the patient, in consultation, and arrived from Fredericton on the day following the accident. I examined all the fractures except that of the thigh: but as the position and length of the limb were good I did not meddle with it. There was a longitudinal wound of the chin about one and a half inches long, with a fracture of the jaw at this point, while distinct motion and crepitus could be got on the left side at the neck of the bone. The fractures of the patellae were stellate in form, and the skin over them lacerated. There was little displacement of the fragments. The patient complained a good deal of pain and distress in the chest, but no fracture of bone or injury to internal organs could be made out. I advised but little change in treatment, except the substitution of carbolised oil dressing to knees instead of the strips of adhesive plaster. Three days after this I visited patient with Dr. Beveridge a second time. He told me that he had suffered more from pain in thorax than from fractures. Nothing seriously wrong could be found there, however, and the treatment by opiates, etc., was ordered to be continued. Everything went on fairly well till about Nov. 10th, when the discharge

from the right knee became more free. There was also a good deal of swelling and some redness of the skin. I visited patient for the third time at Andover on the 13th. I found him much emaciated, pulse 120, very feeble. Right knee much swollen, especially on its outer side. Pressure here caused pus to well freely up through the centre of broken patellae. As thigh and wrists were apparently about well, the splints were left off them. Considerable discharge still coming from chin, and bone not yet united there. As patient's home was near Fredericton, it was decided to remove him there. A posterior splint having been put on right leg, he was placed aboard the train on a mattress, and carried without much suffering to his home, an hundred miles distant. On the following day I made a free opening into abscess of knee and put in a drainage-tube.

*Nov. 30.*—Since last report patient's condition has been steadily improving. The discharge from it has almost ceased. The left knee is entirely healed. There is less motion between the fragments of broken jaw; but several sinuses, discharging pretty freely, still exist in skin over the fracture.

*Dec. 14.*—Has been able to flex left knee considerably of late. Right knee soundly healed. Fractured jaw firmly united, but some sinuses yet remaining over that part. May begin to flex right knee every day as well as left.

*Dec. 21.*—Stood on feet for the first time since accident, exactly ten weeks from date of injury.

*Dec. 24.*—Can flex knee nearly to a right angle; also considerable motion in right knee joint.

*Feb. 28.*—Patient has returned to his duties as a conductor. Has been engaged for a week in shovelling snow on blocked train. Complains only of his wrists hurting him a little. Can use left knee as well as ever, but right one is somewhat stiff yet.

*April 25.*—Has perfect use of both knees now.

*Remarks.*—Such a rapid and satisfactory recovery from so many fractures, some of them of so serious a nature, is not common. The stellate form of the fractures of the patellae undoubtedly conduced to the close approximations of the fragments and thus ensured bony union. It is remarkable, however, that perfect use of the joints resulted, especially in the case of the right knee, where suppuration of the joint must have occurred. The unusually good physique of the man was unques-