

move the joint, and it is possible that it may yet remain ankylosed, which also happens in resection of the head.

Occasionally articular suppuration gives rise to necrosis of the metatarsal head, when extraction only remains. In many cases, however, this necrosis is only partial, and then one must seek to preserve as much as possible the arch of the foot, by sacrificing as little as may be a portion of the first phalange, so as to procure space to drain the joint.—*Riedel in Giornale Internazionale.*

RAILWAY INJURIES.—Dr. E. M. Moore, of Rochester, when speaking on Railway Injuries, at recent meeting of New York State Association, said: He thought we must distinguish between injuries to the limbs of boys and to those of grown men. The tissues had a greater recuperative power in the former case. Where he found the artery at the extremity of a crushed limb beating strongly that decided him. If the vessels were intact, the limb could probably be saved. He cited an instance where an arm had been drawn in and its bones broken into fine pieces between the somewhat loosely set cogs of some machinery. The radial pulse, however, was firm; he did not amputate, and the limb recovered. But in a very great number of railway accidents there was no room for doubt; there were often no bodily injuries of account except the complete destruction which car-wheel and rail, or two buffers, had but too certainly achieved in hand, arm, or leg. Immediate amputation was then everything. He had once removed such a limb, in the days before ether was known. The patient had not seemed to be conscious of any pain connected with the operation, and his first words had been when the arm was off: "Doctor, you don't know how much better that feels."

He would say, in such cases, Give them heat, give them whisky and ether; but give them the knife. The terrible strain on the nervous system from the state of things in the injured limb, where the force had been immense, could not be too soon ended, nor the mental distress, which of itself might soon make the continuance of life impossible. And he had found

the hot bichloride solution an anæsthetic as well as an antiseptic on the surface of the clean amputation wound, which he substituted with all speed in such cases. Where there was uncertainty as to the extent and character of the injury, he placed the limb in hot water and waited perhaps several days.—*New York Medical Journal.*

TREATMENT OF OBESITY.—Mr. Towers Smith, a surgeon of London, in a letter to the *British Medical Journal*, says:—Some three years ago, finding that my weight had increased enormously, I determined to try the following treatment for obesity. On March 1st, 1885, I weighed, in the Jermyn Street Turkish Bath, 15 stones 10 pounds; on the 2nd I commenced the treatment, which was as follows:—Breakfast: one pound of rump steak, without fat. Lunch: another pound of rump steak. At dinner: one pound of grilled cod and one pound of rump steak. I drank at intervals during the twenty-four hours a gallon of hot water. The last thing at night I took two tablespoonfuls of Scotch whisky in cold water, and night and morning 5 grains of bicarbonate of potash. On the 16th I weighed again in Jermyn Street, and I found myself reduced to 14 stones 6 pounds. I then reduced the amount of water, and began to take tea or coffee, reducing the quantity of meat, and taking toast with it. On April 8th my weight in Jermyn Street was reduced to 13 stones 4 pounds. I gradually from that date returned to my usual habits of life as regards diet; and on the 30th I weighed again, and my weight was 12 stones 11 pounds, and since that date up to now has not materially varied; I have eaten and drunk as I pleased. Finding this course of treatment was personally successful, I have since treated forty patients with equal success. Before I placed myself under treatment I found my breathing much oppressed in going up-stairs, and my work as a general practitioner irksome and fatiguing. I have derived enormous benefit from the reduction of fat, and feel infinitely better, and am able to cycle as much as fifty miles a day with comparative ease. I think it may be useful to put my experience before the profession.