

an artificial limb and without friends, would have up hill work to avoid the poor-house, made me decide to accept considerable risk in order to save the limb. Knowing the wonderful results which attend thorough and complete washing and drainage in some of the suppurative troubles of the peritoneal cavity, I determined to treat the knee in harmony with the principles advocated for such cases.

The synovial sac was certainly in a septic condition, nevertheless the greatest care was taken in preparing everything likely to come in contact with the limb during the operation. A large fountain tank, having a half inch rubber attachment of sufficient length and a suitable nozzle, was placed in readiness for use.

When the patient was anaesthetized the small sinus referred to above was dilated so as to admit my fore-finger, and then a free incision was made into the outer side of the knee. From these considerable watery pus with flakes of lymph and pieces of membrane escaped; and on inserting my finger several large pieces of membrane were found, either free or caught in the folds of the synovial membrane. All the articular surface accessible to the finger had deposited on it a peculiar putty-like substance which made it feel rough to the touch. It was with difficulty removed with the finger and douche.

The nozzle of the fountain apparatus fitted pretty accurately the dilated sinus, and by placing it in position and turning on the water, a constant stream could be maintained through the joint, while the finger by a scraping movement cleaned the walls. Closing the outer opening around the base of the inserted finger while the water was running caused the cavity to become distended. When thus distended the various recesses of the articulation were rendered easy of access; not even excepting that under the tendon of the quadriceps. Alternately flexing and extending the leg during distention was also of service in loosening debris.

Upward of an hour was spent with finger and douche before the water came away clear. Until it did so hot water alone was used, but afterward the joint was several times filled and flushed with a 1 to 4000 mercuric solution, in all more than five gallons of fluid passed through the articulation.

A short rubber drainage tube, merely long

enough to reach to the cavity, was placed in each wound, two or three sutures inserted and then a posterior splint and moist mercuric dressings completed the operation.

He slept soundly that night and awoke next morning without either pain or fever, and, while he remained under observation, his temperature never rose again above 99° F. His appetite returned and he gained rapidly in weight and strength. The drainage tubes were not required after the first twenty-four hours.

In two weeks the patient was on his feet and able to walk by the aid of a cane, and in another fortnight, contrary to my advice, he returned to his work on the farm, where, that fall, besides doing other laborious work, he ploughed fully twenty-five acres of land. Except a feeling of weakness and a little stiffness in the knee, for a short time after he left the hospital, he had no inconvenience from it. At the present time all the movements of the important joint are capable of being easily and perfectly performed, and in fact, when we overlook the cicatrices there is not anything abnormal to be detected.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—In this month's issue of the LANCET you publish a diet table for Diabetics taken from the *St. Louis Med. Herald*. My experience with diabetic patients for some years past, as a manufacturer of Gluten Flour and Hygienic Foods, has enabled me to see the injurious effects of some of the articles of diet recommended in that list. I refer particularly to acid fruits, especially apples. In three particular cases, apples proved very injurious and counteracted the good effects of a diet of gluten flour and other foods in which the starch had been converted into dextrine. In one case, the free use of apple cider was the cause of the diabetic trouble. It is customary for physicians to copy such diet lists for their patients, and, knowing the injury of apples in nearly all cases, I deem it necessary to draw your attention to the facts that have come under my observation. Another important point is that I have known infants and persons under twenty-five years of age who have been absolutely cured of diabetes,