## FRACTURE OF BONES.

this may be easily reduced by retentive bandages, as you have not much muscular contraction to contend with.

## FRACTURE OF BONES.

By virtue of the hardness of bone it is liable to fracture. Nature of All the bones in the body are liable to fracture, but some more than others, by virtue of their positions. Let us inquire, firstly, whether or not some of the bones may not some bones be predisposed to fracture. There is a disease which and renders bones liable to break, called "Fragilitus Osseum," to fracture or Fragility of Bones. It is a disease more common in the human subject than in the lower animals. There are other predisposing causes, however, in the horse. The bones of young animals are more elastic than these of an old animal. The bones of an old animal are more endowed The bones of with earthy matter, and hence more prone to break. an old ani The navicular bone may be broken from the effect of liable to ulcerative disease having weakened it. The exciting than causes are referable to the appliance of undue forces, young one. which the bones are not competent to stand against, and consequently they break. Muscular contractility also Great and will produce fracture, especially in young animals, hen muscular the epiphyses or head of the bones are not yet fully per- contractility fected. The muscular contractility may be so strong as a bone. to pull off the head of the bone. The calcis, or point of the hock, may be broken by spasmodic muscular contraction. A horse, also, when cast for an operation, especially an old one, may through his violent struggles break a portion of his spine, and this is done entirely by spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the spine: even an unconscious movement may be the cause of fracture to a bone. The symptoms of fracture in some instances are so plain as not to require any very minute examination. In some cases, however, they are very hard indeed to find out, especially when situated in the very fleshy parts of the animal. We will divide fracture into four partsnamely, Simple, Compound, Comminuted, and Compound Comminuted.

Simple fracture is where there is a bone broken into simple only two pieces, either transversely or vice versa, without fracture. any injury being done to the surrounding tissues.

Compound fracture is when a bone is broken into two compound pieces, and the surrounding tissue is hurt or lacerated, fracture. and thus there is an external wound.

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