

conviction had poulticed it for some time and then opened it. His surprise was very great when, instead of an outflow of pus, as he had expected, nothing came but a yellow albuminous fluid almost as thick as the white of an egg. The substance through which he had cut, he said, was a fatty yellowish mass, looking something like the yellow fat sometimes seen in old beef, and at least three-quarters of an inch thick. Surprised as he was, however, he again applied a poultice, but having continued it for a length of time without any definite results, he abandoned its use and applied ung. resinæ, I think, under which the wound healed. For a few months after this course of treatment the young gentleman was better, suffering less pain and lameness, and being able to attend to his employment. But his former symptoms again returning, his surgeon brought him to me, as already stated, to get my opinion on his case, and to treat him if there seemed any prospect of doing him good.

His history was as follows: About a year before the time he had to desist from his regular work (that of a druggist), he had been hit on the shin by a base-ball. The injury at the time was thought nothing of, a lump rising at the seat of injury as one would expect, soreness in the part, and lameness; no pain when quiet and the leg elevated, but intensely painful when standing or walking about. He was, after several days, obliged to "lie up," as the soreness and swelling, instead of subsiding as they should have done, greatly increased, and the pain on moving around—which came on a few days after the reception of the injury—remained constant and unabated. He then consulted the medical friend who brought him to me, and his treatment was rest and poulticing, opening what he supposed to be an abscess, poulticing it again and finally inducing it to heal, as already stated.

When I saw him he was a healthy looking, well developed young man, of about 22 years of age, walking with a limping gait as from a stiff leg. He was very intelligent, and could give an accurate account of himself, and gave me the foregoing history. I need scarcely say that liniments and various other medicaments had been applied to the parts, for this you would all suppose without being told it.

On examination of the leg, I found a swelling

nearly as large as, and somewhat in the shape of, the half of a goose egg, situated on the middle third of the tibia; and which, by its encroachment upon the tibialis anticus and flexor longus digitorum, and by an extension of the inflammation which surrounded the tumor, to these muscles, so interfered with their free motion, as to give him that "stiff-leg" gait which he assumed in walking. The tumor was rather sharply defined, of an elastic resistance, giving almost the feeling of fluctuation; immovable and sensitive to the touch, and seemingly attached to the bone, which could be felt to be enlarged by close examination at the sides of the base of the tumor. The scar was seen upon the surface where the opening had been made, but beyond this there was no marked change in the skin.

Taking the symptoms together, I should have considered it an abscess from periostitis, or, perhaps, osteo-myelitis; but the assurance by his attendant surgeon that he had opened it, and that nothing came from it but a yellow albuminous-looking fluid, and that the cut surfaces from which this yellow matter exuded had the appearance of yellow fat, precluded the idea of either of these conclusions. I was puzzled, and confessed myself so to his surgeon.

I presume, gentlemen, that some of you might have been puzzled also, for such cases are very rare, and in very nearly thirty years' experience, I had never before encountered one.

As there was enlargement of the bone, thickening of the periosteum, and, evidently, some exudate between them, or in the layers of the periosteum, I considered it good surgery to cut down and examine the bone and superposed parts and obtain what information I could, from observation.

The patient was chloroformed, an incision four inches in length made down to the bone, the knife passing through the very same kind of tissue as my friend had described, and from which the same kind of albumino-serous yellow fluid came, as he had previously witnessed. I was now no more enlightened than before. I denuded the bone, from which the periosteum was almost wholly detached, and found it enlarged, white, and exceedingly hard—eburnated in reality.

As there was no exostosis to be removed, nor anything that saw or chisel could take away—it being so hard in fact that none of these instru-