

THE
BRITISH AMERICAN JOURNAL.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

ART. XV.—*A case of Dislocation of the Femur downwards and forwards, or under the arch of the Pubes.* By EDWARD W. HODDER, M.D., F.R.C.S.L. President of the Medical Board of Upper Canada. Surgeon to the Toronto Hospital, &c., &c.

Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Toronto.

Michael Cambridge, aged 22, a well developed, muscular man, about 5 feet 9 inches in height, was admitted into the Toronto General Hospital, January 15, 1855.

He states that he is a laborer employed on the rail-road works in the neighbourhood of Queen's wharf. At about 6 p. m., this evening, whilst engaged in excavating a bank of earth it suddenly gave way, a large quantity falling upon him, first striking him on the shoulders by which he was knocked down, and a much greater quantity afterwards falling upon his loins and upper part of the thigh whilst he was attempting to escape.

He was brought to the Hospital at about 7 p. m.. On examination a wound about an inch in length passed obliquely through the supercillum towards the inner canthus of the right eye, but which only involved the integument. He complains of great pain in the right thigh and in the region of the right hip joint. The singular position of the limb at once attracted my attention, and on making a very careful examination, it was found that the head of the femur had been thrown downwards and inwards, completely under the arch of the pubes, the neck of the bone resting on the ramus of the pubis immediately below the origin of the gracilis muscle, and either between or through the origins of the adductors.

When supported in the upright position, the thigh formed very nearly a right angle with the trunk, the knee being as high as the head of the bone, the leg was at a right angle with the thigh, the knee turned very much outwards, the toes turned slightly outwards and pointed downwards. When he was allowed to place himself in the position which gave him the least pain whilst standing on