THE PARTICULARS
OF
A CASE
OF
FRACTURE OF THE NECK OF
THE FEMUR.

BY
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Read June 5, 1827.

DR. JAMES, an English physician, forty-seven years of age, in good health, was thrown from his horse on the 20th of March, 1826. He fell directly upon the right great trochanter, but got up and walked a step or two, which occasioned such acute pain in the hip-joint, that he instantly fell again.

On examination, immediately after the accident, Dr. Brulatour observed the principal signs of fracture of the neck of the femur, such as shortening of the affected limb, turning outwards of the foot,

and a feeling of crepitation in the joint when counter-extension was made.

During the treatment of the case, the patient was confined to his bed for two months, and for the whole of that period counter-extension was constantly kept up, so as to preserve the limb of its natural length.

On the 20th of May the splints and bandages were all taken off; and on the 30th the patient got up, and with the assistance of crutches walked a little in the room. On the 20th of June the crutches were put aside, and he walked with only the assistance of a cane. In August he was able to walk without any assistance, and subsequently he recovered the full use of the limb.

Dr. James continued very well till the 20th of December, when a violent attack of hæmatemesis came on. The measures employed had no effect in restraining the disease, and on the 22d, two days after the attack, Dr. James died, at ten o'clock in the morning.

The body was examined on the 23d at eight in the morning, in the presence of Dr. Tindal, Drs. Brulatour, senior and junior, and several medical pupils. The part more particularly examined was the right coxo-femoral articulation. And here were observed,

1. The capsule a little thickened.
2. The cotyloid cavity sound.
3. The inter-articular ligament in a natural state.
4. The neck of the femur shortened ; from the bottom of the head to the top of the great trochanter was only four lines, and from the same point to the top of the small trochanter six lines.
5. An unequal line surrounded the neck, denoting the direction of the fracture.
6. At the bottom of the head of the femur, and at the external and posterior part, considerable bony deposit had taken place. A section of the bone was made in a line drawn from the centre of the head of the femur to the bottom of the great trochanter, so as perfectly to expose the callus. The line of bone indicated by the callus was smooth and polished as ivory. The line of callus denoted also that the bottom of the head of the femur had been broken at its superior and posterior part.