
CLINICAL RECORD.

A RARE CASE OF FRACTURE OF THE ASTRAGALUS.

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THE following case of fracture of the astragalus is, I believe, very rare, if not unique, and one which I think is interesting to report.

One day I was called to see a man who had sustained an injury to his ankle. At the time of the accident he was standing upon a ladder doing some joinery repairs, when the ladder slipped and he fell to the ground. The ladder was leaning against a wall above an open doorway, and when the bottom of the ladder slipped the top part which rested against the wall fell through the open doorway. The patient's foot was caught between two rungs, the toe of his boot catching in the upper while the heel was caught in the lower. Losing his balance he fell backwards, the ladder at the same time falling forward. He was then carried by his fellow-workers to an adjoining shed, where I saw him.

The foot was very much swollen, the swelling being chiefly on either side of the tendo Achillis, while the tendo Achillis itself was unduly prominent. There was also puckering of the skin on the external aspect of the foot just over the malleolus. At first glance the injury resembled a backward dislocation of the ankle joint.

The man was removed to the Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital, where I took the accompanying radiogram, which shows a complete fracture of the astragalus with wide separation of the two fragments.

I removed the posterior fragment, and although the recovery was retarded by a virulent staphylococcal infection invading the whole joint, the man has now a firmly ankylosed joint, and the limb bids fair to prove a very useful one to the patient.

OBITUARY.

P. H. MACLAREN, M.D.

ALTHOUGH Dr. Maclaren had not for some years been engaged in the active work of practice, his removal by death none the less creates a felt blank in the profession in Edinburgh.

Many who were familiar with the face and figure, which the passing years seemed to touch so lightly, have been surprised to learn that he had passed the allotted span of life, and so truly was the outer man an embodiment and index of a buoyant and youthful spirit that