1859, by Mr. Simon. The cartilages were eroded, and there was softening of the end of the femur. For a few days after the operation her condition was very critical, but when suppuration was established she improved, slept better, and was more cheerful. She was sent from the hospital to the Margate Infirmary. There was firm bony union, and only a slight amount of ulceration in the line of the incision when she left St. Thomas's.

CASE 6.—An unhealthy, pasty-looking man, aged twenty-three, with long-standing disease of the knee-joint. After his admission two incisions were made, and considerable quantities of pus escaped. He did not improve much, and excision was performed Nov. 19th, 1859, by Mr. Simon. There was extensive ulceration of the cartilages, and superficial caries, dependent upon a small sequestrum in the head of the tibia. He improved in health after the operation, and a good deal of the wound united by first intention. A counter opening was required, when suppuration occurred, to give exit to some retained pus. When he left the hospital there was firm union of the bones, he was able to get about, and was in very fair health.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.

STRUMOUS DISEASE OF THE KNEE-JOINT; EXCISION;
RECOVERY WITH A SOUND, ANCHYLOSED,
AND USEFUL LIMB.

(Under the care of Mr. GANT.)

THE two following cases sufficiently speak for themselves. They make up the nine mentioned in our previous remarks, and with but one unsuccessful result out of that number:—

John P—, aged eighteen, was admitted on Oct. 19th, 1859. The patient is a strumous, unhealthy-looking subject; a coal-porter. While following his occupation about four years and a half ago, a large piece of coal fell on his right knee, and occasioned pain for some days, after which he resumed his work, although the joint was much swollen, and still painful. He continued to work during the ensuing three months, the joint remaining swollen, and latterly the hamstring muscles contracted so as to draw the limb backwards to nearly a right angle with the femur. He then went under treatment at the Westminster Dispensary for four months, during which period the muscles gradually drew the heel up to the buttock. He afterwards resorted to St. George's Hospital, where he experienced some relief, under the care of Mr. Hawkins, and was discharged at the end of three months. Thence he went to St. Mary's Hospital, and was a patient for more than eight weeks, under the care of Mr. Lane. Subsequently, at the Westminster Hospital, he remained for ten months, under the care of Mr. Guthrie, when he was discharged. After six months' suffering, he was again admitted into the same hospital, and continued under treatment for two months more. At length he sought relief at the Middlesex Hospital; but having remained for three months, without any improvement, he left the hospital. Eventually he came to the Royal Free Hospital, and was placed under the care of Mr. Gant on the 19th of October last.

The joint was found to be uniformly swollen, but not so much as to obscure its outline. A thin unhealthy discharge issued from two or three sinuses which led into the joint, and the patient was much emaciated. His general health having been renovated so far as the local disease and lengthened illness allowed, Mr. Gant excised the joint under chloroform on Oct. 31st. By a transverse and slightly curved incision below the patella, and extending from one condyle of the femur to the other, the joint was fairly laid open. The patella was then removed, although in a sound condition, and a slice of the femur and tibia, both of which were partially bare of cartilage, were sawn off. The femur was most diseased, and a second slice was taken from it, until the rose-coloured bleeding bone was reached. All the diseased bone having been thus got rid of, the surfaces of the femur and tibia were seen to be well adjusted to each other, and the edges of the incision brought together with sutures of fine silver wire. No vessel required ligature. The limb was at once placed upon an extended Macintyre splint, of such length as to allow of the femur and tibia to be in easy apposition without being much pressed together by the foot-board. Broad strips of adhesive plaster were then drawn around the limb, a splint applied above and below the knee, and a bandage from the foot upwards and from the thigh downwards, leaving the knee uncovered, around which were placed strips of wet lint. No side splint was used.

No unfavourable or unusual symptom followed the operation. On the eighth day some hæmorrhage occurred, which was arrested by the application of ice.

Dec. 17th.—The splint was removed, and union found to have taken place; the limb was replaced; general health much improved.

Jan. 2nd.—Union was more firm; health continues to improve, and his trembling agitation has subsided.

27th.—Union more firm; limb replaced on a short posterior splint.

From this time the patient sat up in bed daily, but it was deemed advisable not to allow him to try the leg much. When the weather became warmer, he took gentle exercise, with his leg suspended in a sling. He left the hospital with a sound and useful limb, having been allowed to remain an in-patient until he could be admitted into the Margate Infirmary to thoroughly re-establish his health.

EXTENSIVE CARIES OF THE RIGHT KNEE-JOINT;
EXCISION; RECOVERY, WITH FIRM ANCHYLOSIS,
IN TWO MONTHS.

(Under the care of Mr. GANT.)

Elizabeth D—, aged thirty-three, married, on September 29th, 1853, while walking down a gentle descent, slipped over some rotten pears, and caught the heel of her boot in a grating, whereby the knee was wrenched inwards, causing severe pain. Considerable swelling ensued, which never subsided; but the articulation continued movable for three months, at which time, the patient having scrubbed two or three rooms, more intense pain attacked the joint, which soon became fixed. This crippled state continued without any improvement, although leeches and blisters were used from time to time after the injury. The general health remained unimpaired up to October, 1858, when she experienced severe pain, apparently rheumatic, extending throughout the whole limb. This subsided under treatment, but the practitioner to whom she had last applied candidly told her that the case was incurable otherwise than by amputation; and by his recommendation she came to the Royal Free Hospital on September 12th, 1859.

The joint was considerably and uniformly swollen. Three sinuses, one in the popliteal space, discharged a thin ichorous matter, and the limb was bent towards the buttock, but was movable with a grating noise, such as plainly bespoke destruction of the articular surfaces. The constitutional irritation was proportionate to the six years' suffering the patient had endured. She was not so much emaciated, but passed sleepless nights, trembled, and was always in tears.

On October 19th, chloroform having been administered, Mr. Gant excised the joint by making the same incision as in the preceding case. The head of the tibia was sawn off to the depth of half an inch; a thicker portion of the femur was taken away, and the cancellated structure scooped out for more than an inch, so as entirely to remove all diseased bone. The patella was also removed. The subsequent steps of the operation and adjustment of the splint were precisely similar to those adopted in the other case.

The general health improved rapidly after this operation. The patient gained flesh and spirits, and progressed without a single unfavourable symptom. At the end of eight weeks the splint was finally removed, and so firm was the anchylosis that no other was applied, the limb being merely bandaged from the toes upwards to prevent any tendency to swelling on first moving about.

The patient could rest her whole weight on the operated limb, and she left the hospital in time to eat her Christmas dinner at home.

CLINICAL RECORDS.

SENSATION OF CRACKLING WITHIN THE JOINTS.

A FEMALE, aged thirty-six years, but looking much older, a housemaid, of spare frame and short stature, was admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital on the 6th of February last, under Dr. Farre's care, with general pains about her limbs and joints. She has been a sufferer from rheumatoid arthritis; and from her family history it appears that her father and uncle were subject to the same disease, or to gout, but which, she says, was rheumatic gout. Besides the general pain and distress present on her admission, she had a sensation of crackling within all the affected joints, especially well marked at the under part of the right knee, in the right ankle, in the left