COMPLETE OSSEOUS UNION AFTER TRANSVERSE FRACTURE OF THE PATELLA.

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M.R.I.A., &c., &c.

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THE rarity of a specimen of osseous union in a case of transverse fracture of the patella was well indicated by the great French surgeon, who so thoroughly disbelieved in its occurrence, or so extravagantly appreciated its value, that he offered its weight in gold to anyone who would procure him such a specimen. As the present specimen is in excellent condition, and shows the line of fracture with ideal distinctness, I thought that it might be worthy a few moments' attention from the members of the Pathological Section of the Royal Academy of Medicine. I possess no previous history of the specimen.

DR. E. H. BENNETT said that the specimen was as complete as any he had seen; it corresponded very closely indeed with the magazine plates in which there is a specimen almost identical with Dr. Knott's.

MR. MYLES, on examining the specimen, questioned whether the line of fracture along the cartilages represented a complete cleft through the entire thickening of the bone, whether it was not only a chip out of part of the bone.

SIR WILLIAM STOKES thought that there was a distinct mark of the fracture in the front of Dr. Knott's specimen.

MR. WHEELER said he had shown a specimen of bony union of the patella a good many years ago, at the Pathological Section in T.C.D. The specimen was obtained two years after the sustained injury, when death occurred from phthisis.

DR. E. H. BENNETT said that he had seen Mr. Wheeler's specimen. His specimen was one of comminuted fracture of the patella, the bone being broken into three pieces, and not a transverse fracture; such specimens were common.