REPORT ON AN UNUSUAL INJURY AT THE WRIST JOINT

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On 15th May, 1952, a private soldier was vaulting over a "horse" in the gymnasium when he wrenched his left wrist, sustaining a forward dislocation of the head of the ulna and a fracture of the styloid process and adjacent metaphysis of the ulna.

The mechanism of the injury appears to have been as follows: His hands were placed on the end of the "horse" in full pronation, and instead of pushing off with his hands in the normal way his hands remained fixed. The weight of his body was transmitted through the left thigh on to the left forearm, then supinated strongly on the fixed hand, and anterior dislocation of the head of the ulna occurred with detachment of the ulnar styloid and adjacent metaphysis.

Under general anaesthesia—pentothal, nitrous oxide and oxygen—the dislocation was reduced, and the forearm splinted with a Colles' fracture type of P.O.P. cast for five weeks. Union of the fracture had taken place when the plaster was removed on 20th June, 1952.

After seven days' physiotherapy he had regained full painless movement of the wrist.

My thanks are due to Colonel V. C. Verbi, O.B.E., Commanding Officer of this hospital, and Colonel C. M. Marsden, Consulting Orthopaedic Surgeon to the Army, who is in charge of this department, for permission to publish this case.