

SURGERY

"Fender Fracture" is New Auto-Caused Surgery Problem

Pedestrian, Standing With Leg Straight, Struck From Side by Fender of Car Cutting Corner, New Type Case

A NEW condition for surgeons to treat, called "fender fracture" for short, was introduced to surgeons by Dr. Frederick J. Cotton of Harvard University Medical School at the meeting of the American College of Surgeons.

The new condition is the peculiar kind of break or fracture of the leg which so frequently occurs when a pedestrian, standing with his leg straight, is struck from the side by the fender, mud-guard or tire of an automobile, Dr. Cotton explained. The new kind of fracture may be traced chiefly to the fact that automobiles cut corners and pedestrians stand too close to the curb.

Fender fracture is a real fracture entity, common in these days of auto traffic and bumps, Dr. Cotton said. Fender fracture is the nickname for "comminuted compression fracture of the outer tuberosity of the tibia produced by force exerted from the outer side, producing valgus strain."

Machine age injuries are horribly mutilating because the accidents causing them are protracted, Drs. William R. Cubbins, James J. Callahan and Carlo

S. Scuderi of Cook County Hospital, Chicago, told members of the American College of Surgeons.

It is one thing to crack an arm or leg in a simple fall, these surgeons indicated. The injured limb can be put to rest immediately and the broken bone will quickly heal. But when the bone is broken in an automobile accident or by a machine in a shop, the injury is far more severe and healing is much slower because the breaking force continues so much longer, before the automobile or machine can be stopped.

"In an automobile accident, if the thigh of one of the occupants is fractured at the moment of impact, and the car then turns over several times before throwing him clear, the limb is twisted and torn beyond hope of rapid repair," the Chicago surgeons said.

"It is the continuation of the breaking force that causes interposition of tissues between the broken ends of the bone, injures the growth and blood-supply membrane of the bone or periosteum, and injures or destroys the blood supply of the adjacent tissues."

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Sealed Contract 3,900 Years Old to be Opened at Yale

A CONTRACT written and sealed in an envelope by Babylonian parties 3,900 years ago has arrived in America, and will be opened.

At Yale University, where the impressive document has come to the Babylonian Collection, Prof. Ferris J. Stephens announced that some qualified scholar will open the large, well-preserved clay envelope and remove the clay tablet inside, to study the ancient contract.

The Yale collection has also obtained a piece of Babylonian writing unique in present knowledge of that country. This is the original copy for a personal seal,

for the engraver to use, just as today an order might be written to show an engraver how to letter some calling cards. The Babylonian who ordered this seal wrote on a small clay memorandum the words he wanted copied, not in cursive script, but in the careful monumental script used on stone inscriptions.

"Inscriptions on seals presented more than ordinary difficulty to the engraver," explained Prof. Stephens, "for they must be cut in mirror writing in order to produce the proper impression when they are impressed on a soft clay tablet.

"While this copy is written with the signs in their normal positions, there are



WHAT IS INSIDE?

Here is a clay envelope sealed 3,900 years ago, now at last to be opened.

traces of the practice strokes of the engraver on the edge of the tablet, where he produced a few of the more difficult signs in mirror writing."

The seal as ordered was worded in the style popular about 2000 B.C. It consisted of three names: first the owner of the seal, then his father, then the deity to whom he was especially devoted. Translated by scholars of Babylonian it reads: "Ili-u-Shamash, son of Lublut-ili, servant of Lugal-banda." A letter addressed to this same Ili-u-Shamash is among the tablets Yale has acquired.

Babylonian kings, like unscrupulous kings of Egypt, thought nothing of erasing the name of a predecessor off an inscription in order to claim credit. An unknown king named Kudda, who apparently ruled at the city of Erech about 2450 B.C., has come to light in this way. A broken stone bowl, originally used as a votive offering in a temple, bears an inscription with Kudda's name filled in over an erased one.

Rulers often tried to prevent this royal custom by adding a curse to their writings, calling down awful fate on