

1. Attend to the fracture on the spot. No matter how crowded the street or how busy the factory do not move the injured until the fracture is secured.

2. Immediately grasp and support the injured limb. This prevents harmful movement of the limb.

3. Still retaining the hold on the injured limb, carefully straighten it and if shortened draw upon it steadily and firmly until it is the same length as its fellow.

4. Still holding the limb have it secured in splints and bandages.

A splint to be of use must be (a) firm enough to support the limb, and (b) long enough to extend beyond the joint above and the joint below the fracture and immobilize both. Thus, if the leg is broken below the knee the splints must be so contrived as to keep the ankle and knee joints quiet. If the forearm is injured, the finger and wrist joints are fastened to a splint and the elbow is secured in a sling. If the thigh is injured it is necessary to immobilize the knee and hip joints. As the hip cannot be secured unless the body is kept horizontal a splint is used passing from the arm-pit to beyond the heel to which the body and limb are bound. It is better to have assorted lengths of board made and on hand, but in their absence use any available material as umbrellas, canes, pickets, folded papers, etc. One leg will act as a splint for the other. The arm can be bound to the body, the lower jaw to the upper, etc. For bandages, the best, of course, is the triangular bandage, but in its absence use neckties, handkerchiefs, towels, ropes, etc. The splints must be applied firmly and yet we must see that they do not constrict the limb so much that the blood supply is cut off because in that case gangrene may be the result. In the case of the collar bone which is often broken, the shoulder falls inward and forward. The collar bone acts as a tent-pole. In order to properly treat this fracture the shoulder is kept out by means of a pad placed in the arm-pit. Then the arm is secured to the side by means of broad bandages. The shoulder should be drawn backward and when this is done the arm sling is applied. Remember the importance of the arm sling which should be used to support the arm in all cases of injury to the arm, forearm, and hand. Bend the arm at the elbow in all cases as this is the easiest position and the one in which it will be secured by the doctor when he comes.

5. Attend to wounds. Cleanse and apply a clean dressing to all wounds.

6. Do not attempt to move a patient who has had a fracture of the skull, spine, pelvis, thigh or leg, unless recumbent and in the proper manner.