

CANADA

# MEDICAL JOURNAL.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

*An easy Method of Bedmaking in Fractures.* By E. D. WORTHINGTON, M.D., Sherbrooke.

I have a case of fracture of the neck of the femur in a lady sixty years of age, and weighing 160 pounds.

At the time of the accident she received some abrasions of the skin behind the trochanter of the injured side, but as she did not complain of them when the leg was "put up" they remained undiscovered. After a few days, however, these abrasions became so painful that it became necessary to ascertain their exact locality and extent.

How to do this was a matter of some difficulty, as the slightest attempt at moving the patient caused excruciating agony. I therefore adopted the following simple plan, and not having seen any similar contrivance used for this specific purpose, beg to recommend it to the profession, even at the risk of repeating "an old story."

My apparatus is as follows:—Eight pieces of pine—six of them being each thirty inches in length, four in breadth, and three-eighths of an inch in thickness. The other two are three in breadth, three-quarters of an inch in thickness, and the length of an ordinary bedstead; the ends and edges of them all being rounded, and perfectly smooth.

When everything is ready I pass the short pieces separately under the patient from side to side, at regular intervals from the head to the feet—say one at the heel, the calf of the leg, the middle of the thighs, the hips, small of the back, and shoulders. The long pieces are then carefully inserted under the ends of the short pieces. The apparatus is put together in a minute, and one person at each corner lifts the patient steadily on this temporary stretcher. The bed underneath is arranged in two minutes more, without the least feeling of discomfort to the patient. In this way my patient has been moved every day for the last two weeks. As her bedstead is rather low, two ends of the long side pieces