

SURGERY.

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SOME POINTS IN THE MAKING OF PLASTER OF PARIS JACKETS.

(Albany Med. Annals.) By Dr. J. V. Hennessy. The author describes the case of a girl twenty-two years of age, who weighed 130 pounds. She had Pott's disease of the lower dorsal vertebrae and paraplegia of two years' standing. Ordinary methods of applying a plaster jacket by suspension failed through syncope ; in the recumbent position, faulty position spoiled them, and the patient could not sit.

The mode adopted in this case was to make a form of plaster of Paris from numerous measurements giving width, depth and girth at hips, waist and bust. On this an ordinary knitted cylinder was stretched, and the plaster applied as upon the human form. The advantages of this method of making a plaster of Paris jacket are numerous, although the trouble and care are considerable. In the first place, certain modifications of form can easily be made, as may be seen in this specimen. The dorsal deformity is exaggerated, leaving a considerable space so that the spinal protuberance may not rub against the jacket. Next, extension of the trunk may be increased by increasing the length between the crests of the ilium and the axilla. The waist measurement may be diminished and gradually widened upward, giving the support to the trunk which is so necessary, and any other modification of form which may, in the judgment of the maker, add to ease or efficiency. Again, a jacket may be applied to a form so built up with ease and deliberation, which is impossible with the often tired and moving patient. The other points apply to a jacket, whether made upon a form or upon a patient. First, the ordinary plaster of Paris roller bandage being used, a jacket is made as under ordinary conditions, except that much fewer thicknesses are employed, say, six or seven thicknesses of crinoline and plaster. This, having been allowed to set, is cut up in the median line, removed and allowed to thoroughly dry. We then have an