

muscles if they are held relaxed and not allowed to stretch even to their limit.

Two illustrations will suffice to show what is meant. In paralysis of the upper arm, the most important function to recover is the abduction, so one devotes great attention to the possible restoration of the deltoid.

It has been demonstrated that this muscle will recover its power in much shorter time if the arm is held abducted at right angles to the trunk and a special splint is made to hold the arm in this position day and night. This apparatus is removable and the massage is carried on daily during its use.

In paralysis of the lower extremity, the power of the quadriceps is the most important. This also will recover most rapidly if the limb is never allowed to flex at the knee, but is held in a completely extended position.

The easiest method of keeping this position is by means of a caliper splint made like a Thomas knee brace, or a double upright splint reaching to the thigh with no joint at the knee. At night a trough splint should be worn to keep the leg extended.

The writer has seen muscle restoration even after two years of apparent complete paralysis, by this constant relaxation.

With an apparatus of this sort, the patient can walk, and besides being easier to care for, the writer feels certain that the efforts made to walk and use the muscles of locomotion has a stimulating effect on the nerve cells and increases the possibility of their recovery.

What may be said about the much vaunted electrical treatment? Electricity is unfortunately the *dernier resort* of many members of the profession, and it is used usually by rule of thumb without any definite method in view; hence faradism, galvinism and static electricity are used indiscriminately.

If we are to avoid the possibility of being classed with the charlatans, we must come to some clearer views on the subject of the treatment of infantile paralysis by electricity. One knows that in the bulk of cases of poliomyelitis the muscles lose all response to faradism within a few weeks, and hence it seems absolutely impossible to hope that one would get any benefit after that by the use of faradic current. It is equally well known that the galvanic response very often continues, and it seems reasonable to suppose that a moderate amount of utility might be expected from a slowly interrupted galvanic current. A pendulum device might be attached to a galvanic battery so as to interrupt the current at moderate intervals, and this form of electricity might be used; but in the writer's opinion the time spent in this way might, with greater advantage, be spent in massage.