

of a firm wire bed, with a thick mattress that will not sag, then a steel frame, first devised by Bradford of Boston, I believe, light and rigid and large enough to extend beyond the contour of the body. This is covered with canvas laced tightly on, in two parts, with a space between, to allow the ordinary functions of nature to be carried out without disturbing the patient's position, and to support the weight of the body when the frame is shifted or moved. The patient is laid upon this and kept quiet and in the same position by shoulder straps which come up through the axilla and over the shoulder and are secured to the frame; a pelvic band also is useful for children. The frame and all is lifted, and the bed pan placed in under when required; the patient can be moved from one bed to another, or one room to another and even outside when desired, upon a rolling chair or wagon, without disturbing the spine. For cervical disease, a head extension, in the form of a horseshoe is made, and this is also covered with canvas. Traction can be carried out by gravity or weights. Securing the head by a headstall and attaching it to an upright secured to the head piece and then raising the head of the bed, or by using a weight and pulley to the head and an attachment secured by a pelvic band at the foot of the apparatus (illustrated). Fixed jackets and braces can be worn with this apparatus if desired, and they often are advisable. Amongst the poor it is difficult to carry out recumbency properly—the materials might be procured, but constant watchfulness is necessary and it is difficult if not impossible for them to remain in bed if at all able to get about. We must therefore adopt some ambulatory method of treatment, something that will not confine the patient to the house, and make an invalid of him. We must fix the spine as well as possible, and so we resort to jackets and braces. The propped up waists of earlier times, high bodices, afterwards stays, and now corsets, first suggested the value of the jacket treatment—persons having this disease deriving so much comfort from the strapping up (fixation).

In 1815, LeVacher produced a strong corset of canvas, stiffened with steel ribs, and a jury mast very much like Sayre's of to-day. This was introduced to America by Gibson in 1824. In 1696, Von Nuck devised a suspension apparatus similar in principle to the Sayre's swing. In 1700, Heister produced an antero-posterior brace very similar to the Taylor brace, so that the use of modern apparatus is not recent.

In fixative apparatus, Phelps says, "The plaster of Paris jacket devised by Sayre of New York, is one of the best supports, to be used in Pott's disease, that the world has ever seen. While it has