

posture, but is enabled to walk out and take gentle exercise, so far as his strength will permit, and to enjoy the change of air which contributes much to the improvement of the general health, and ultimately to the union of the vertebræ by anchylosis. We know the case of one young lady who suffered from this affection in the upper portion of the lumbar vertebræ, with considerable projection of the spinous processes; she had great weakness in her limbs, and had been long confined to the horizontal posture without anchylosis being produced, but her health suffered so much from the confinement, that great fears were entertained for her recovery. She commenced the use of these stays, began to take gentle exercise, though she could do so very imperfectly: her health improved, and in the course of twelve months the vertebræ were united by anchylosis, with apparently less projection of the spinous processes. After a few more months had elapsed, she had recovered much more power over the movement of her limbs, was enabled to take more exercise, and felt so strong that she discontinued the use of the stays, and considered her health in a great measure restored. Another young lady, who had been long confined to the horizontal posture, from disease of the lumbar vertebræ, with little power over the movement of her limbs, but in whose case anchylosis had been produced, but the spine remained so weak that she was much confined to her couch, and unable to walk without assistance. This lady had recourse to the use of steel stays, from which she derived great benefit: her strength increased, she regained more power in walking, and by continuing to wear these stays she is enabled to walk out daily and take gentle exercise, and apparently with little deformity of the spine. Many cases of a similar nature can be produced, in which the patients derived the greatest benefit from the employment of steel stays, both anterior to anchylosis, and after it had taken place.

Indeed, as one great object in the treatment of this disease, is to produce anchylosis of the diseased vertebræ with as little injury as possible to the patient's general health, when the horizontal posture has been employed for some time without anchylosis being effected, it seems advisable to commence the use of these stays, that the health may be improved in order to anchylosis being produced. And again, when patients still complain of much weakness in the spine after anchylosis has taken place, the constant use of these stays becomes of the greatest service, by affording mechanical support to the body, and enabling them to take constant exercise for the benefit of their health.