

It is necessary now to sling the limb so that the air may have equal access on all sides to dry it. I have found that the outside coating will become quite dry in from 3 to 5 hours, when the sling may be removed, but the entire thickness of the bandage will not be found entirely consolidated for about 48 to 60 hours. After the lapse of this time, the leg is found to be encased in a perfectly-fitting boot, more solid than the thickest sole-leather, and can be moved in any direction without pain. In none of the cases has there been any complaint of pain from the swelling that we might expect to find occur shortly after a fracture had been sustained. On the contrary, the patients have all expressed themselves as feeling extremely comfortable. As soon then as the bandage has completely consolidated, it becomes necessary to split it down the front from one end to the other. Owing to the extreme hardness of the splint, this is a matter of some difficulty, except in the event of one's possessing a pair of powerful properly-constructed bandage-pliers: failing this however, the simplest plan is to slip a very thin piece of wood beneath it, and then cut on this with a sharp strong knife. Having thus split the bandage from end to end, a number of holes are bored on either side with a brad-awl, and a long tape being passed alternately through these, it is laced up like a lady's corset. The apparatus is then entirely complete, and may remain without being touched until union is perfect. The above description might lead some to suppose that the process was long and tedious, and in consequence objectionable, but our small experience with it in this hospital is such as to make us believe that by reason of its increased comfort to the patient, and of the facts that patients can sooner get up with safety with this than any other form of splint, and that it will never get out of order, and consequently never require re-adjustment, the advantages secured by its employment greatly counter-balance any slight trouble that it is necessary to take to ensure its proper application at first.

At this hospital, the above-described method has been put into practice in several cases of simple and compound fracture of the leg, and in all with most satisfactory results. In the majority of cases, the patients were permitted to get up on crutches on the third day from the receipt of the accident. In two, it was thought advisable to make use of a box splint for a few days previous to the application of the bandage on account of considerable swelling and rapid vesication.

The following short notes give an account of four of the cases so treated:—

Antoine M., aged 30, transverse fracture of both bones of the