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### DOUBLE TALIPES—EQUINO-VARUS.

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Strangers from the other side, and people from the country, often remark on visiting Toronto, "Why, what a number of cripples you have in this city!" No doubt it is a fact; but let us seek the reason for it, and we find two distinct causes for this superabundance of unfortunates in our midst. First, those who by freak of nature are "deformed, unfinished, sent before their time into this breathing world, scarce half made up," and those who by accident, by flood, or field have become unfit for the hard manual labor of a rural life, naturally resort to the cities where they may cultivate their brain power, and through one or other of the professions—especially the Church and the Bar, (for a medical man must have full use of his hands at least,) or in some of the lighter forms of labor, they may gain an honest, honorable livelihood, and perhaps achieve greatness, as through the goodness of an all-wise Providence a system of compensation is always at work, and those who lose one power are pretty sure of having others developed to a degree far surpassing what is usual.

Another reason for this concentration of cripples is, that they are brought to the cities to get that relief from their maladies which cannot be so easily furnished in the country,—1st, because in the country there are no hospitals or instrument makers; and 2nd, the practitioner cannot give time to make frequent visits at long distances, to watch and guide the case, without which constant supervision all operative interference in cases of club-foot is worse than useless, for it inflicts pain and discomfort on the patient, raises the hopes of

parents and friends, and ends in sad disappointment to them, and in casting a slur on the surgical art. The reason of this failure is frequently due to the parents or guardians of the patient. The medical man is generally anxious for the welfare of his client, and chary of his own reputation; but no matter how careful he may be in iterating and re-iterating his directions, the parents too often think that when "the operation" is performed, all is done, and nothing more required.

To obviate this annoyance, I have adopted the following plan, and have generally found it succeed. Instead of charging for the operation and leaving further charges for after advice or secondary operative proceedings, to be made as the occasion arises, I make a full charge to cover operation and after treatment. In this manner the patient, parent or guardian has a monetary reason for paying attention to the after treatment, and is not deterred by the fear of incurring fresh expenses.

With these prefatory remarks, I shall proceed to give an account of the following case. Miss G. suffered from congenital talipes of the most common kind, viz., equino-varus, both feet being similarly affected. The deformity was discovered early, and when yet an infant she was operated upon twice, but the after treatment being neglected, no good resulted, and the parents seem to have concluded nothing more could be done for her, as they allowed her to grow to the age of sixteen without seeking further relief. Her own will now came into play; and tired of hobbling about on crutches, she consulted her medical attendant, Dr. Reid, of Bowmanville, who kindly directed her to consult me, which she did in the month of June, 1871. Having carefully examined her case, and got casts taken of both feet, I charged her a fee, and informed her she would have to be under my care, and obey my directions, for three years,—a long period it may seem to those unacquainted with the subject,—but when her age, the great distorsion, the consolidation of the bones, &c., are taken into consideration, I could not expect satisfaction sooner. The sequel shows I was right.

At this time both feet were turned inwards, the soles of each looking backwards whilst she walked, or hobbled, with the aid of crutches, on large callosities situated below and in front of the external malleoli and over the dorsum of the cuboid bones. The heels were drawn up—each tendo acillius was