

enlarged with flesh, covering much thickened and calloused from walking on that side of the foot. By advice of medical men of greater or less celebrity, a number of whom he had previously consulted, almost every conceivable appliance and apparatus had been used without any appreciable good result. On the 23rd May, 1887, I operated, assisted by Dr. T. W. Poole, who kindly administered the anæsthetic. Using a fine tenotomy knife, the contracted tendons were divided, also the plantar fascia and muscles. The operation progressed without serious hæmorrhage or any troublesome complication, and having been satisfactorily completed, the limb was fairly straightened and set in position." The following morning I applied the plaster casing, using against the sole of the foot a moulded splint padded with cotton-batting, with batting around the limb to prevent undue pressure from contraction of the plaster; in setting I used a little salt in the water in mixing the plaster. I left the foot in this fixed position some eight or ten days, then removed a small portion on the outer side to below the ankle joint, and pressed the foot still further outwards, even beyond the natural position, and having poured fresh plaster, secured it in its new position and left my patient quite comfortable. On the 22nd of June, thirty days after the operation, I entirely removed the plaster casing, finding the limb perfectly straight and of natural shape, almost as its fellow, the previously enlarged malleoli and callosities less noticeably prominent. I had him now put on a laced boot specially stiffened on the inner side with stove-pipe iron, moulded to the last on which the boot was made and concealed between the leathers. He at once endeavoured to walk and could do so, resting part of his weight on the previously affected foot. In a very short time after he was able to dispense with his cane and walk as well as anybody. I may mention that he had been operated upon twice previous to my acquaintance with him. This was a specially aggravated case, and although I had operated previously and applied the plaster casing at once, in this I preferred to wait a few hours, though I think from the satisfactory result that I might have followed my previous experiment.

Dr. Post, in a communication to the *Medical Record* in 1888, claims originality of procedure, as

well as some other practitioners. Dr. Henry Taylor, also, in the *Medical Record* of March 8th, 1890, particularizes five points which I contend are fully covered in my report.

1. Preservation of heel cord as an aid in unfolding the foot.
2. Exact prehension of the foot by means of an apparatus not attached to the shoe, and by plaster attached to the leg.
3. The application of leverage to the inner side of the foot and leg.
4. The reduction first of the varus deformity, afterwards of the equinus.
5. Thorough after treatment. By the use of iodoform dusted over the incision, and covering with carbolized gauze, I have not been troubled with offensive discharge, and the wound has healed readily. In young children I have found the plaster casing and stiffened boot sufficient, omitting any more serious surgical interference.

The originality of treatment I claim is :

1. In applying the plaster casing immediately after operation or without any cutting of contracted tendons.
2. Continuous extension by the fixed plaster casing.
3. Increased traction if necessary without removal of casing.
4. The wearing of a simply constructed boot insuring permanent success.

Lindsay, June 19, 1893.

Correspondence.

The Editors do not hold themselves in any way responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

DR. SANGSTER'S LETTER.

To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,—In your last issue you venture to insinuate that I entertain, or did entertain, a suspicion that my son had been unjustly dealt with by the Medical Council, in the matter of his examinations. Had this cowardly inuendo been merely your own utterance, I should not have deemed it worth notice, but, in giving currency to it, you are, it is well understood, but following the instructions you have received from your masters. The Medical Council, at its recent meeting, spent considerable