

favorably of this position continued throughout the stage of consolidation in certain cases. I will leave it for those who have had experience in this matter, to define the cases which are suitable for such treatment. Theoretically, only fractures in the lower part of the leg should be put up with the knee unsecured.

Stanley Boyd, in his late and excellent revision of Druitt's Surgery, makes the curiously inaccurate statement, that in the United States fractures of the leg are usually treated by Buck's method—the American stirrup (meaning by these terms the weight and pulley extension), and that coaptation splints (Cline's) are also used when the fracture is oblique. It would be interesting to know in what small proportion of cases the members of this Society have used the weight and pulley for leg fractures, and in what still smaller proportion they succeeded in making this form of extension honestly efficient in overcoming deformity. It has appeared to me to be so difficult to obtain a purchase on the parts below the fracture for pur extending force, without running the risk of ligating the limb or making injurious pressure upon parts like the instep, unfitted to sustain it, that I have not even made trial of this expedient. And before doing so, I shall certainly make trial of one or other of the two forms of double inclined plane which are here presented—the Liston's splint improved by McIntyre, or the wooden apparatus manufactured by Pratt & Son, of Bennington, Vt. When displacement is prevented by keeping the limb at a certain fixed angle, these appliances may prove useful.

Suspension.—I have seldom seen a broken leg doing so well without suspension, that it would not do better with it. One need not pay \$20 or \$30 for a Salter's swing, when any ordinary blacksmith, if shown how, can for \$4 or \$5, make one equally good. I show you one which is easily taken apart for convenience of carrying. This I have had in use for nearly ten years, and it has paid for itself many times over.

A simpler and quite familiar frame is this, which resembles two small window sash hinged together along one side. Simplicity and portability can go even further than this, and I show you here a bar of wood, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches square by 2 feet long. Into the upper surface of this and near each end, a screw hook is fixed, by which it may be suspended

over and parallel with the injured leg. Into its under surface three or four more screw hooks are fixed, and from them the leg is, by loops of bandage or otherwise, suspended. Dr. Walker, of Detroit, was the first, so far as I know, to describe the use of a bar like this. In practice, we often find that loops of bandage used for the suspension of limbs soon draw into ropes. Hamilton, to obviate this and to distribute the pressure along the limb, suggested the use of broad leather loops. As these are not always at hand, I have used instead starched linen cuffs, one cuff at the ankle and one below the knee, suspended by soft cord or bandage so as not to tear out the button-holes, will answer every purpose. In swinging a limb, it is good practice to have the knee slightly higher than the ankle. Motion at the point of fracture, muscular starting and pain from pressure on the heel, are almost if not entirely obviated by suspension, and yet I feel sure that no small number of limbs are kept lying upon the bed throughout the treatment.

The discussion of tenotomy of the tendo-achilles I leave to others, as I have had no practical experience with it. In very oblique fractures of the tibia, compound or threatening to become so, and in the V-shaped fractures first and best described by Gosselin, this procedure may well commend itself to our consideration.

Compound Fractures of the Leg.—Antiseptic surgery has revolutionized the treatment of this class of injuries and reduced the mortality of cases not demanding amputation, from over 30 %, to practically no mortality at all. Volkmann, in 1876, startled the surgical world by reporting 75 consecutive recoveries. Dennis, in 1886, records 150 cases without a death due to septic causes. The very success we now attain brings to us new dangers. Men who formerly would have died now recover, and if not turned out models of manly symmetry, are very prone to listen to the suggestions of Ishmael and of Ananias, and to try and recover damages from those to whom they owe debts of gratitude for life prolonged. In selecting our methods of fixation for these cases, we should bear constantly in mind the fact that we may, within a few months, have to defend in the courts the procedures we adopt.

He who studies to be fertile in helpful resources will not be tied to any routine practice. After testing a considerable number of plans, such as