

The writer finds it exceedingly common, when asked to see cases of hip disease, that deformity has resulted, and has been regarded as something not readily preventable. The method here outlined, however, may be said to be not only easy of application, but uniformly successful in preventing deformity.

In order that a child may be kept in the required position, it is well to place a girdle around the frame at the level of the shoulders, and attach obliquely two straps of webbing, which may be made to encircle the shoulders and be fastened with safety-pins, so as to prevent the child from rising to a sitting posture or from rolling over in sleep. It will be seen that all the connections are simply between the patient and the Bradford frame; consequently there is no disturbance in taking the patient from one position to another, thus avoiding highly objectionable movement at the diseased joint. The matter of nursing is very easily carried out if a thin and carefully-made bed-pan be employed. For the purpose of nursing, bathing, exposure to sunlight, etc., the patient may readily be rolled over, while holding the limb carefully, thus avoiding needless disturbance.

The writer feels confident that the management here outlined is the most successful means of correcting the deformities during the course of the disease, and of maintaining the desirable and essential conditions of relationship between the pelvis and the femur. By such means, also, the diseased head of the femur and the diseased acetabulum are not forced against each other, and the degree of extension employed prevents the muscles from forcing together the diseased structures at the joint. If this latter condition be permitted, the softened bone is often needlessly absorbed, and even when the head has entirely disappeared, as is not infrequently the case, the femur may be kept down in its relation to the pelvis, permitting a desirable ankylosis to occur, so as to result in a limb actually much longer than would otherwise be secured. When mere fixation of the joint is sought for, as, for example, by employing a well-fitting plaster-of-Paris spica, either when confining the patient to bed without extension, or permitting the patient to walk about, bearing his weight upon the affected limb, the absorption of bone and needless shortening of the limb are caused. When moderate traction, together with recumbency, is employed, not only are the ill-effects of pressure of joint surfaces avoided, but also great gain may be effected, even after the integrity of the joint has been destroyed. This may be well illustrated by the following case, now under observation:

Miss H. A., fourteen years of age, seen in April, 1908. The history makes clear the fact that there were well-marked symptoms of hip disease three years previously. In the interval she had been confined to bed for several weeks, and upon some improvement