

muslin. There are different qualities of this material, none of which, as far as I have had experience with them, make a very bad material for plaster bandages, and one must by experiment with different kinds find the quality which is most suitable for this work. The chief points to be held in mind in regard to this choice are, that the material be not very closely woven and that it tear readily without leaving ragged edges; and muslin meeting these requirements is not difficult to obtain.

Another fault with the plaster-of-paris bandages usually supplied, is that they contain either too much or too little plaster, usually the latter. When made in the ordinary way, by simply sprinkling and rubbing the plaster into the strips of material with the hand, it is almost impossible to have a uniform quantity of plaster in all parts of the bandage. It is customary in many hospitals for the nurses to provide "mortar" or "plaster cream" to be incorporated in the plaster dressing as the bandages are being put on; and at certain operations when I have brought my own bandages the nurses have manifested considerable surprise when told that mortar would not be required. As ordinarily made, with only the merest sprinkling of plaster within the bandage, the use of mortar is indispensable to secure a sufficient degree of firmness and rigidity to the dressing; but if enough plaster is rolled up in the bandage the use of mortar is entirely unnecessary; and made with the machine described above it will be found that an ordinary number of bandages without the addition of mortar will make a rigid and unyielding dressing, which will also be more durable and better in appearance than a dressing made with the help of mortar.

In exhibiting this contrivance to other practitioners some surprise has been expressed at the amount of plaster which is rolled up with the bandage, and some have even expressed doubt as to whether the amount used was not altogether too much. When it is explained, however, that the use of mortar is not contemplated when the bandages are employed this objection is readily overcome. However, by sinking the screws on which the scraper rests farther into the wooden bottom of the machine, the amount of plaster left in the bandage can be diminished if desired.

A number of machines have, I believe, been devised for the manufacture of plaster bandages. The one described in this article is presented as providing such desirable features as extreme simplicity, ease of manufacture, cheapness, freedom from liability to get out of order, and easy adjustment by each practitioner to his own requirements.

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