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Original Communications.

IMPROVED APPARATUS FOR POTT'S DISEASE OF THE SPINE.*

By HENRY LING TAYLOR, M.D.,
NEW YORK.

The indications for treatment in Pott's disease are to relieve the carious vertebræ from pressure and shock: with a minimum of confinement and a maximum of comfort. There are no more powerful stimuli to general and local nutrition in these cases than the relief from mechanical and nervous strain, and the access to fresh air made possible by the use of an efficient spinal splint. This should be in effect an artificial and temporary backbone, giving firm support and protection at the point of dis-

ease, and receiving, partially at least, the strains that would otherwise fall upon the diseased vertebral bodies, and assist in their disintegration.

Recumbency for short periods and abstinence from standing and walking for longer periods are necessary during the acuter stages, but the prime indication from the start is for definite spinal support, for which no period of recumbency alone, however long or strict, can be successfully substituted.

It is now over thirty years since Dr. C. Fayette Taylor described* the early diagnostic signs of Pott's disease, and showed the indication for treatment by antero-posterior support and protection, that is, by leverage fixation. His later improvements in the apparatus designed to meet this indication are shown in this paper.

* Exhibited to the Surgical Section of the Pan American Medical Congress Washington, September 6, 1893.

* The mechanical treatment of angular curvature, or Pott's disease of the spine, New York State Medical Society, February, 1863.