

of the distance to the knee, and leaving a narrow space uncovered before and behind, each space so uncovered being about one-sixth of the circumference of the leg. The material is readily moulded to the shape of the limb, by immersing it for a few seconds in water, at a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit. I am in the habit of moulding the shoes thus heated, over a wooden last made for the purpose. The last is not made after the fashion of a bootmaker's last, but it is shaped like the natural leg and foot, except that the outer side of the foot is made to correspond with the inner, thus obviating the necessity of having separate lasts for the right and left foot. I have sometimes used similar shoes made of felt stiffened with shellac, as manufactured by Dr. Ahl, of Southern Pennsylvania. In order to mould the felt, it must be dipped in water at nearly a boiling temperature, and the hands require to be protected by means of cotton gloves wet with cold water. I am rather inclined to prefer the gutta-percha shoes to those which are made of felt, especially as the former material is more conveniently moulded to its proper shape.

I generally commence the treatment of infantile clubfoot by the subcutaneous division of the tendo-Achillis, after which I apply a strip of isinglass plaster over the small wound of the skin. I then have the foot held by an assistant as nearly as possible in its normal position, and while it is so held, I carefully apply a roller bandage so as to cover the foot and leg, beginning the application on the outer side of the ankle. I then apply the gutta-percha shoe, an assistant grasping the leg with one hand, pressing the upper part of the shoe against the sides of the limb, and with the other hand pressing the sole of the shoe against the sole of the foot. While the shoe is thus firmly pressed against the leg and foot, I apply a roller bandage firmly, so as to secure it in its place. After the lapse of twenty-four to forty-eight hours, I take off the bandages and shoe, wash the foot, wipe it dry, use passive motion freely in different directions, and then reapply the apparatus as before. The application is repeated at intervals of two or three days, until the foot is brought to its proper shape, when it is put up in a laced boot, lacing to the toes, and having a firm sole and stiff sides, provided with iron braces which extend nearly as high as the knee, and secured by a strap and buckle around the upper part of the leg.

The following are, in my estimation, the advantages of the gutta-percha shoe over Scarpa's shoe, and its various modifications :—

- 1st. Its greater simplicity, and the ease with which it is made. When the material is at hand, the shoe can readily be made in fifteen minutes.
- 2nd. It is much cheaper than the spring shoe.
- 3rd. It is more comfortable to the patient, being lighter, exerting a