

Progress of Medical Science.

The Open-Air Treatment of Hip-Joint and Spinal Disease.

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It is now almost universally admitted that hip-joint and Pott's disease are of a tubercular nature, and that in many cases of these diseases, at some period or other in their course, recumbency becomes a necessity in the treatment. Now, it is not proposed for an instant here to lay down any rules as to what cases need recumbency, but it is desired to lay before the profession a simple method by which recumbency, with any advantage it may have, can be obtained without the counter-balancing evils which attend it when used in the general way by confining a patient to bed.

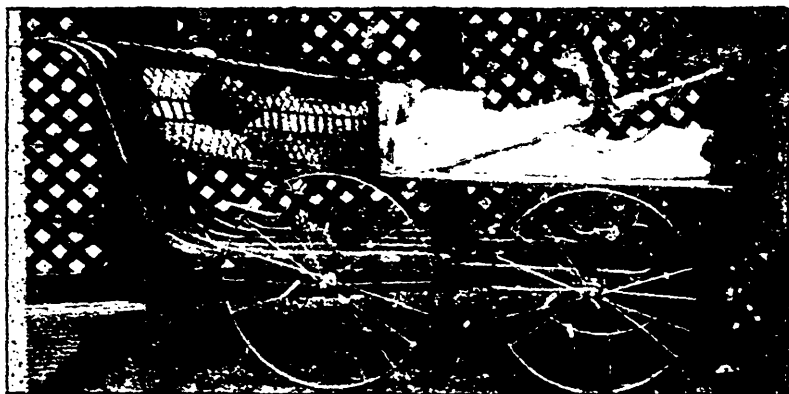


FIG. 1.

A light carriage with wicker-work sides, rubber tires, and well-tempered springs is made of a length suitable for the patient, allowing for at least three years' growth, and it is surprising how a child will grow on such a carriage in the fresh air and sunlight. A frame of hardwood, of a length suitable for the weight of the patient, is then made; good ash (three-quarters by two and a half) is strong enough for a child under five years of age; this frame should fit snugly inside the wicker-work of the carriage and be covered with strong canvas, laced beneath to keep it tight. The canvas can be made in three sections, one narrow in the middle for removal when the bed-pan is required: