

that this is a very common cause of the deformity. There is no doubt, too, that deformities of the trunk are often due to direct paralysis of the trunk muscles: those of one side being weak, while those of the opposite side are vigorous, an unbalanced state results. Of more importance than the paralysis of the trunk muscles is the retardation of growth of the paralysed side. This, which is so constantly observed when the paralysis affects the extremities, operates with the same certainty when the trunk is the part affected; consequently the development is asymmetrical.

The degree of recovery ultimately attained in these cases depends less upon the medicinal treatment employed than upon the severity and extent of the lesion in the spinal cord. In cases of poliomyelitis some palsy always remains, but recovery may be almost perfect. "Very little change need be expected in the first few weeks of the disease, but there is reason to hope that those parts which show any improvement within the first few weeks or months after the onset of the disease will recover power before long, and only those parts will remain permanently paralysed which after months show no signs of improvement." (Sachs: *Nervous Diseases of Children*, 1895, p. 307.)

More or less progress toward recovery is likely to continue for a period of about two years independent of treatment. After the acute stage of the disease has passed, the most important thera-

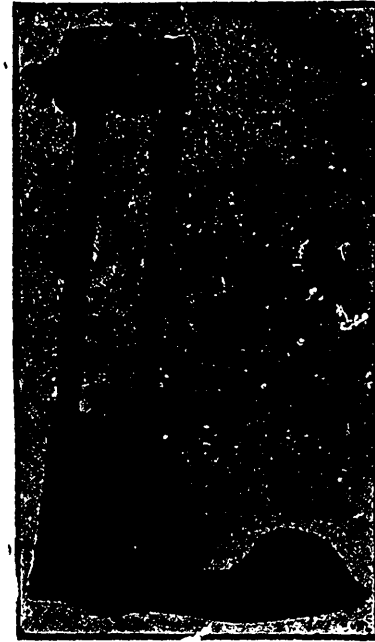


FIG. 5.

Appliance to be worn in bed to prevent recurrence of deformity of the foot after operation.

peutic agency is found in the natural functioning of the affected part. If the lower limbs can be used for locomotion without the use of apparatus and without inducing deformity, it is important that they should in that way receive necessary exercise by which restoration of power will be greatly aided. Concurrently, massage and electricity may be employed, especially the former.

If an arm be affected the child should not be allowed to let this member lie idly by the side, but should by systematic discipline, and if necessary by confining the other arm, be compelled to try to use it. If the lower extremity be unable to bear the weight of the body and serve properly in locomotion, or if the use of it induces