

buttock is beginning to strip over a surface the size of one's hand. He could not, therefore, be kept any longer on his back, which was the only position in which any restraint could be secured against the motions of the broken limb.

It appeared to me that his only chance was to put up the leg in the starched bandage; with this alone he could move about or lay in any position without disturbing the fracture. I accordingly applied the starched bandage as high as two-thirds up the thigh, making an opening opposite the wound on the leg to let the purulent discharge escape. On the fourth day after the starched bandage was put on, he had improved amazingly. The mind clear, his nights good, and the spasms gone; the pulse fell from 108 to 96. From this time he never had a bad symptom, the wound quickly healed, and when the bandage was removed on the 4th of September, firm union appeared to have taken place. It was, however, re-applied and kept on till the 17th, when he was dismissed well, nine weeks after admission.

If we consider the difficulties in this remarkable case, the deranged state of mind destroying the perception of pain or motion of the fracture, which was therefore not guarded against, the fearful spasms absolutely grinding the broken ends against each other, the frequently recurring nervous tremors, the diarrhœa, and finally, the stripping of the back, the great value of the starched bandage must become strikingly apparent.

One word as to the method of applying it. An ordinary calico bandage should first be evenly applied from the toes to the knee, when the fracture is not above the middle of the leg, and above the knee when it is. The outside of this should be smoothly smeared with thick, clear starch, and a starched bandage rolled over this. Then pieces of pasteboard, soft and rather thick, and previously steeped in warm water, so that they readily mould themselves to the inequalities of the limb, should be put on each side of the leg and along the side of the ankle and foot, and also before and behind the seat of fracture. The pieces of pasteboard that go down the side of the leg and foot, when they have dried, make a kind of firm splint; they need not be broad, and should not be cut into the proper shape but torn, so that the edges are not hard and sharp, but gradually bevelled off. The whole should now be well and evenly smeared with starch, and then an unstarched bandage over all. It will be seen, therefore, that an unstarched surface is next the skin of the leg, obviating the objections I have mentioned, and that the outside of the apparatus is unstarched, preventing its troublesomely sticking to the surrounding sheets, and