

TREATMENT OF EPISTAXIS BY SIMPLE COMPRESSION OF THE
NOSTRILS:

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A few days ago, I was called to a case of severe epistaxis of an active character. The patient, a middle-aged man, had been the subject of a good deal of hard brain-work. He had suffered from severe epistaxis on several occasions, for which he had been variously treated, locally and constitutionally. The local treatment, hitherto found successful, was the injection of iced water.

When I saw the patient, he had been bleeding from the nose for some time, and on the day previous had lost so much blood that he fainted. On the whole, the loss having been so considerable, I felt justified in interfering. The thought struck me to try what simple compression of the nostrils close to the nasal bones between the thumb and forefinger would do. I first tried the compression myself, then the patient used his own fingers, first of one hand, then of the other; in the course of about twenty minutes the bleeding was completely arrested. The simplicity of this plan of treatment, when compared with plugging the nostrils, must be apparent. In no medical or surgical work, as far as I know, is mention made of this method.

The situation of the bleeding vessels has generally been supposed to be rather high up in the nares, but here was a case in which the bleeding vessel (or vessels) was either situated below the hard parts, rendering compression comparatively easy of application; or if situated up, the compression caused a clot to be formed, having a firm basis of support, and so plugged the bleeding points. In all cases of epistaxis requiring interference, to which I may in future be called, I shall certainly first try what simple compression of the nostrils between the finger and thumb will do before proceeding to further treatment.—*British Medical Journal*.

AN IMPROVED MODE OF REDUCING BACKWARD DISLOCATIONS OF
THE ELBOW JOINT.

By Wm. H. De Champ, M. D., of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

I deem it the duty of each member of our profession to bring to light, and place upon record, any improvement, either in surgery or the general practice of medicine, whenever he becomes satisfied of its worth.

This system, or course of procedure, of placing upon record any principle or fact likely to prove of service to the profession at large, is one of the distinctive differences between pure scientific procedure and that of charlatanism.