

The method of extension by the use of nails and traction apparatus, suggested by Steinman, and also the methods of Lambotte, of introducing pegs united to a frame held outside the wound, has very serious objections. The danger of an open wound through which is introduced a foreign object to the centre of a long bone, leaves a wide open door for infection.

*Operative or Open Method.*

No subject in surgery is engaging the attention of the profession at the present time more than the operative treatment of fractures, and before proceeding to discuss this method I will draw your attention to the following very important sections of the British Medical Association report:

Section 10. "It is necessary to insist that the operative treatment of fractures requires special skill and experience and such facilities and surroundings as will ensure asepsis, it is therefore not a method to be undertaken except by those who have constant practice and experience in such surgical procedures."

Section 11. "A considerable proportion of the failures of operative treatment are due to infection of the wound, a possibility which may occur even with the best technique."

Section 12. "The mortality directly due to the operative treatment of simple fractures of the long bones has been found to be so small that it cannot be urged as a sufficient reason against operative treatment."

Section 13. "For surgeons and practitioners who are unable to avail themselves of the operative method the non-operative procedures are likely to remain for some time yet the more safe and serviceable."

All operative procedures are becoming easier to an increasingly large proportion of our profession doing surgery, and the probability is that this applies also to the operative treatment of fractures. Mr. Robert Jones, of Liverpool, very tersely states "that the indications for operation will clearly differ from the individual standpoint of the surgeon and no rules can be laid down. The surgeon with the least mechanical resource will operate most frequently." Those who have seen Lane operate might be led to believe that the proceeding is a simple one, but this is not so; as many of you are aware, Sir Arbuthnot Lane has developed a technique and dexterity which perhaps is unequalled, therefore it follows that the proceeding is a rational one for him to carry out.

Personally I have had an open mind, and my practice has been to operate on cases which I was unable to reduce or retain in good position, more particularly in fractures in the upper part of the