

maintains the best position possible, a variety of gymnastic exercises should be performed, cultivating such groups of muscles as the surgeon finds most called into use in bringing about this degree of correction. It is most important that this test position should be maintained. When weariness makes it difficult for the patient to maintain this corrected position, the exercises should cease and rest be permitted. The patient never feels at ease in this corrected attitude; the senses have become habituated to the position of deformity, and a restful feeling exists only when the deformed attitude is permitted. Consequently a re-education of the senses becomes a necessity, and the exact or corrected posture assumed by effort must become the *habit of life*. An important aid in bringing about this result is obtained by permitting the patient to exercise before a large mirror, maintaining at all times the best corrected position possible.

While electricity and massage may be general in their application, they should be given especially to the muscles and other tissues of the back and trunk.

In the use of all forms of portable mechanical appliances, the principle employed in the use of the plaster jacket is the best. By means of a suspensory attachment to the head, the spine is extended according to the judgment of the surgeon. This lessens to a greater or less degree the amount of deformity, and in this position the plaster jacket is applied, embracing the pelvis below and the thorax above. Thus the jacket becomes a double cone, and tends to maintain the body in its improved position. The disadvantages attendant upon the use of gypsum may be overcome by substituting for it the leather corset here shown, or the wooden corset made by Phelps, or other substitutes that have been employed for this purpose. Any portable appliance acting on a different principle, such as that with crutches in the axillæ, are worse than useless. A crutch under the movable shoulder can accomplish nothing in helping the patient to maintain a better position.

Against all such mechanical appliances it may be objected that they constrain the muscles of the trunk, producing atrophy and weakness, whereas increased strength is called for. This objection makes treatment by their use in the

first two classes unwarrantable; coming in the third class, however, are individuals who cannot work or be comfortable without some aid to support the body; in such cases these appliances are commendable.

Other mechanical means there are which may be employed with advantage where there is any permanent deformity. The inclined plane, having an attachment by which extension is made at the head while the body makes counter-extension, may be employed advantageously several hours a day and thus be made to alternate with the treatment above mentioned.

The difficulties that lie in the way of the surgeon in treating patients by gymnastics are so great as to be almost discouraging. One might as well prescribe for a patient so many pages of Hebrew or Greek and expect her to return regularly with the work accomplished as prescribe a series of gymnastic exercises and expect them to be followed out in the manner above described without a competent instructor to direct and accompany. I know of no plan by which this can be successfully carried out except by a regularly trained gymnast.

IS DIPHTHERIA OF LOCAL ORIGIN?

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During the prevalence of any epidemic so fatal in its effects as diphtheria, it is natural—nay, imperative—in the interests of his patients that every practitioner should carefully scrutinize every journal, consult every authority at his command, and exchange ideas with his professional confreres, in search of such remedies from which he may select and use those he may consider the most beneficial to each individual case. The tendency in most journals and standard works at the present day seems to be the acceptance that diphtheria is of local origin, and therefore the remedies must be chiefly local also, attacking the exudation vigorously with every conceivable kind of gargle, spray, and powder, with a view to destroy the local affection and thereby prevent systemic infection. Now, it may appear presumptuous in some to oppose the views of such men as Brettoneau, Oertel, Jacobi, Mackenzie, Bartholow, and numerous others equally famous. Still, it is the privilege of each one to accept or reject this or