

When the model is well dried, rawhide previously soaked in water till it is soft is stretched over very tight, and fastened in place with nails. From six to fourteen days are required for the drying of the rawhide, during which process it tends to contract; but, being retained by the nails, it sinks into all the depressions, and leaves the elevations well marked. Before applying the rawhide, the prominences, *e.g.*, the projection of the vertebral spines and of the anterior portion of the iliac crests on the plaster model, are to be made more prominent by adding strips of felt or leather, so that when the dry corset is applied to the body it may not press upon these parts.

The corset may or may not be lined with chamois skin. Running vertically, about one inch apart, on either side of the prominence made by the projecting vertebral spines, are two strips of felt secured to the rawhide, and making constant pressure forward over the vertebræ, while their spines are allowed to pass between these strips, and so avoid the erosion that so frequently results in the use of plaster.

Lacing hooks are applied along the front of the jacket, so that it may be removed as an ordinary corset. Numerous holes may be punched through both rawhide and lining, affording thorough ventilation. For the support of the spine above the sixth dorsal, a head or chin support must be employed, or the case treated by recumbency.

The following claims for the corset may be fairly made:

(1) When brought down well below the iliac crests at the sides, to the pubes in front and to the cleft of the nates behind, it grasps the pelvis more securely, and retains it in its relation to the lumbar vertebræ more perfectly than any other spinal appliance, except its prototype, the spinal jacket, thus preventing lordosis.

(2) If brought well up to the supra-sternal notch in front, it gives effectual support as high up as the sixth dorsal vertebra.

(3) It has the advantage over the plaster jacket that the bony prominences may be more effectually guarded, that the corset may be removed for bathing purposes, and that a corset will last for one or several years, thus avoiding the worry and trouble of the frequent application necessary in the use of plaster of Paris.

(4) It is better than leather because it is much more elastic and retains its shape perfectly, besides being very much lighter.

(5) It is not so warm as poroplastic felt, and retains its shape better.

(6) It is not expensive.

Any instructions regarding mechanical supports would be very incomplete without a reference to the Taylor spinal brace which is here shown, and is so generally known to the profession. It is the only brace for which credit has been claimed on the ground that it has brought about