

statement is controverted by experience and is not borne out by the speaker's clinical results. Misleading statements of this kind only tend to paralyze all progress and check all efforts after improvement.

To command success, the first absolute requisite is to employ a truss that will *permanently close* the internal ring. With the ordinary circular spring or girdle truss, this is a physical impossibility. The history of the centuries proves it. You may adjust your instrument over the internal ring but, whether you employ the ordinary spring or the "crossbody" truss or the "frame" truss or the so-called "silver" truss, it soon sinks down until it rests upon the pubic bone, leaving the internal ring unprotected and exercising injurious pressure upon the spermatic cord. The pressure in all varieties of the "circular" truss is from below upwards, thus increasing the protrusion of the internal ring and inviting to the presence of a bubonocoele which prevents the possibility of a cure. Many practitioners recommend the use of the so-called "elastic" truss but, in doing so, they display ignorance of the first principles in the successful management of these cases. Not one of you would advise the employment, for months or years, of a tightly applied Esmark bandage over any other part of the body; but the statements of some of our authorities on Hernia would lead one to suppose that the tissues involved in a hernial protrusion are not subject to the same laws as govern other portions of the body. They do not believe in atrophy of the tissues from over pressure; they smile at the idea of possible injury to the delicate vessels comprising the spermatic cord from the constant application of from 3 to 4 lbs. of pressure directly over the pubic bone.

Nevertheless, gentlemen, the atrophy is *there* and the injury is *there*; and the difficulty in the management of these cases is, not so much from the rupture itself, as from the injurious effects of previous improper treatment. Some authorities seem to think that a truss, to effect a cure, must produce some vital change in the parts to which it is applied. Such an idea is erroneous. The action of a truss is *purely mechanical*. Its application is intended to keep the internal ring *permanently closed* and, by preventing the intrusion of any foreign body, the ring contracts in obedience to the natural law that "*a cavity always adapts itself to*

*its contents*." By doing so, all ruptures under puberty can be rapidly cured for, in these cases, there is a strong natural tendency to closure of the ring. So also, most recent cases in adults can be treated with like success but the treatment must begin early and be carefully persisted in. This statement will doubtless be questioned but clinical facts outweigh all theories and preconceived ideas based on the results of faulty instruments.

A frequent cause of failure in the management of these cases is the want of proper medical supervision, but no amount of effort will avail unless you employ a truss that thoroughly controls the internal ring. By careful and persistent attention on the part of the physician, aided by intelligent assistance on the part of the patient and the employment of a proper truss, results can be attained that will be both surprising and gratifying. At the same time, efforts should be made to develop the weakened tissues and care should be taken to remove all causes that would tend to prevent nature in her efforts to effect a cure.

My own early experience in the mechanical treatment of Hernia was, like that of all others, most unsatisfactory. One truss after another was tried and discarded until, in despair, I had one made to meet the indications as I understood them. After many years experimentation, I submitted the instrument to your inspection. I did not claim that it was perfect, as one speaker disingenuously stated, but I did claim that it gave better results than any other with which I was acquainted. Another year's experience has more than justified the claims then made; and its method of manufacture, as you see, has been greatly improved. It is the only truss which can be permanently retained over the internal ring, resting immovably, as it does, upon the crest of the ilium.

Its pressure, unlike all other trusses, is applied from above downwards. It interferes less than any other truss with the movements of the body and is less affected by them. On account of the groove in the face of the pad, it is the only truss which does not exercise injurious pressure upon the spermatic cord. By its use, more cases can be cured than by all other trusses combined. When from any cause, the cure is unnecessarily delayed, or reasons of expediency demand a speedy result, the freshening of the canal in the manner advocated by me will effect a safe, speedy and permanent cure.