

sible, applying a proper dressing and instructed the boy to come to my office every day until his hand was all right. He came irregularly and it was about middle of December before the sore had completely healed.

As there was loss of integument and subadjacent tissue there was contraction in the process of healing which was much favored by the position in which the boy held his thumb—hence he had a slight deformity consisting of an adduction of the first Metacarpal bone causing the thumb to be drawn toward the median line to such an extent that it interfered with the complete flexure of the index finger.

Owing to the youth of my patient, and being deterred from doing a plastic operation owing to the unsanitary and septic conditions existing in the boy's home, I determined to try "massage," promising good results if I had the co-operation of the boy and his parents. I encouraged the boy to come to my office every day for treatment, and I explained to his parents how to rub and manipulate the boy's thumb in order to restore its position.

The boy came five times during the month of January. After this I did not see anything of him until the first of June, when he appeared, accompanied by his father, who for six months previous had been threatening to bring an action against me for malpractice and boastfully claiming that he would get \$5,000 if he did so.

On this occasion I charged the father and son with neglect, and pointed out to them where my directions had not been followed. I informed the father that I had not seen the boy for more three months. The only excuse elicited from Mr. A—for his negligence in not executing my orders was that he thought the treatment I was giving the boy was not doing any good. He further stated that he had consulted other doctors, who said that "the hand would have to be split up."

I discouraged any operative procedure at this time, and told Mr. A—that I would not operate without giving "massage" a fair trial; that "massage," properly and persistently applied, would, in my opinion, restore the functions of the thumb.

After again showing him how I wanted the hand treated, I