

tion apparatus. The laity should be taught that it is a fallacy to suppose that the so-called setting of a fracture should occur at once after an injury, without regard for the surrounding circumstances. It has been our common experience that many fractures are discharged with good alignment and apparently firm union, which seen many months later show marked angular deformity. While it is difficult to control the actions of patients, who have apparently fully recovered, more particularly those cases which are discharged from the public wards of the hospital and pass completely from the observation of the attending surgeon, we have perhaps not taken sufficient steps to protect our own reputations. All such cases should be kept as long as possible under observation, or until good bony union has taken place.

The old fashioned method of using a bedroom pillow supplemented with strips of board on either side is still an excellent dressing, especially in fractures of the leg. Plaster of Paris dressings are difficult to properly adjust, and should never be used until one has acquired considerable skill in their application. In my opinion there are certain parts of the body where plaster of Paris should never be used except by surgical experts, that is, in fractures of the shaft of the humerus and femur, and in obscure injuries about the elbow and knee joints.

Mobilization and Massage.

We owe very much to the French surgeon, Lucas Championnière, and while very few English-speaking surgeons have been daring enough to carry out his practice in detail, I think we have all appreciated the value of massage and frequent inspection of the injured limb, while at the same time using some definite fixation apparatus. Lucas Championnière has again and again drawn our attention to the fact, which I think had been previously mentioned by Thomas, of Liverpool, that too rigid fixation diminishes reparative bone production, damages the soft parts and stiffens the joints and tendons, so that the patient when at last freed from his dressings, suffers more in recovering the use of muscles and joints than from any other cause. The originator of this method has pointed out that the massage must be gentle and never carried to a point of producing pain.

Against this method, however, there can be little doubt that the early recovery which has been claimed for it is often at the expense of anatomical deformity. We must, however, always appreciate that to Lucas Championnière, more than any one man, we must acknowledge our thanks for the introduction of the combined methods now so universal on this continent.