

The advantages of the above plan of procedure are so obvious that I need scarcely refer to them, but in brief they are the following:

First, The intermaxillary bones are kept in close contact with the parts with which it is desirable they should unite, by the wires of the sustaining suture.

Second, All strain on the lips being removed the soft parts must unite by first intention, it cannot be otherwise provided all chemical or mechanical irritants are wiped from the wounds, which can so readily be done by a hair pencil.

Third, The degree of relaxation necessary to properly control and modify the future shape of the nares is entirely at the command of the surgeon.

Fourth, The absence of all dressing which would interfere with free respiration and thereby endanger life.

Fifth, The operation is complete at one session, and comparatively speaking, a very brief space of time is required for complete and permanent union.

Sixth, The surgeon is relieved from an immense deal of trouble and constant attention, which is so necessary when other operative plans of treatment are adopted.

Seventh, The results are admirable, thereby not saying too much.

This method is not altogether new, as it has been resorted to, but only partially and for a different object, by Prof. Bruns, of Tübingen. Many years ago he applied a sort of quill suture, passing out one such beneath the nostrils through the septum narium to prevent too great narrowing of the nares, and in one instance he again applied a single quill suture near the free margin of the lip, in an unmanageable child, lest the lower suture when removed might be followed by rupture of the united wound. His fear in this last instance was certainly to some extent groundless, for in five cases out of six the rupture occurs, not near the free margin, but in the neighborhood of the nares.

The actions mainly of two muscles, viz: the levator labii superioris alaeque nasi and the levator labii superioris proprius, has to be overcome. The zygomatici and the levator anguli oris are little to be feared, as any one can convince himself by applying his index fingers to the two sides of his lips, imitating my sustaining suture.

Though the meritorious and highly distinguished, Prof. Bruns did not apply the quill suture either in the same manner or for the same purpose, yet I thought it my duty to show that I was acquainted with the fact though irrelevant.

I earnestly desire the profession to give my *modus operandi* a trial,