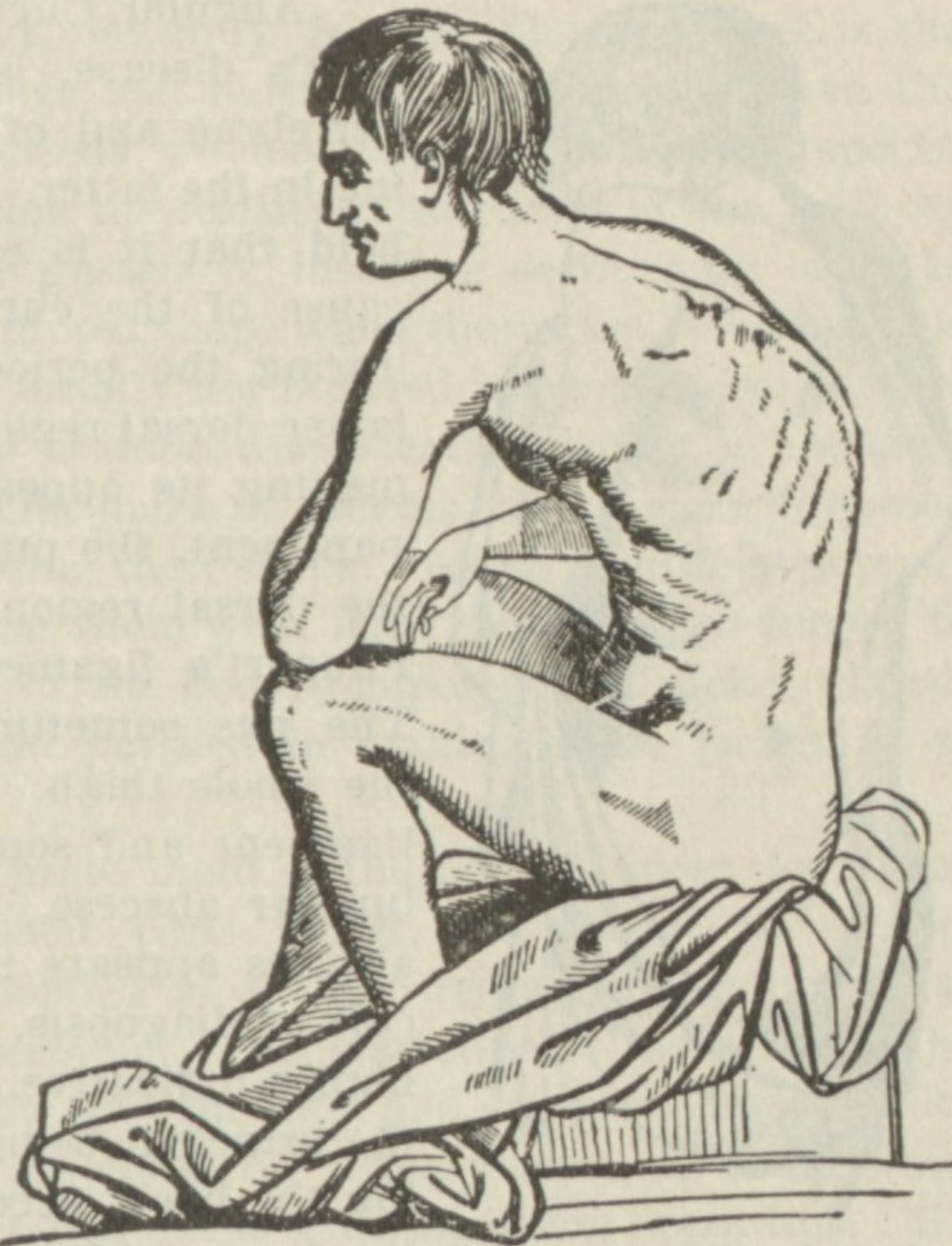


ORTHOPÆDIC APPARATUS.

SPINAL DISEASES AND DEFORMITIES.

Cyphosis, Posterior Curvature. The variety of spinal deviation sometimes described under the name excorvation, gibbosity or cyphosis—terms all more or less expressive of the nature of the deformity—is met with chiefly in young and elderly subjects, although it may take place at any period of life, as well as in both sexes, and in persons of every grade and occupation. The curvature, generally situated in the upper portion of the dorsal region, varies in degree from the slightest alteration of the natural form of the column to the most hideous deformity. Cyphosis of the lumbar and cervical regions is infrequent. Occasionally an instance of general cyphosis is observed, the whole column presenting an arched appearance with marked concavity in front. Among the more common and efficient of the causes are rapid growth of the body, imperfect assimilation, spanemia, syphilis, rheumatism, scrofula, softening of the osseous tissue, and the waste consequent upon protracted and exhausting maladies. Certain trades and occupations, requiring a stooping posture, belong to the same category. Whenever, from these or from any other agencies, the spine is materially weakened, the weight of the head and the irregular action of the muscles will readily draw the vertebrae out of their normal relations, and thus occasion a corresponding degree of distortion. Hence, posterior curvature is very common among tailors, shoemakers, engravers, scriveners and persons of similar pursuits. The careless manner of leaning over books, and of sitting upon backless benches at school, with the shoulders and arms hanging forwards, is a frequent source of cyphosis.



Cyphosis.

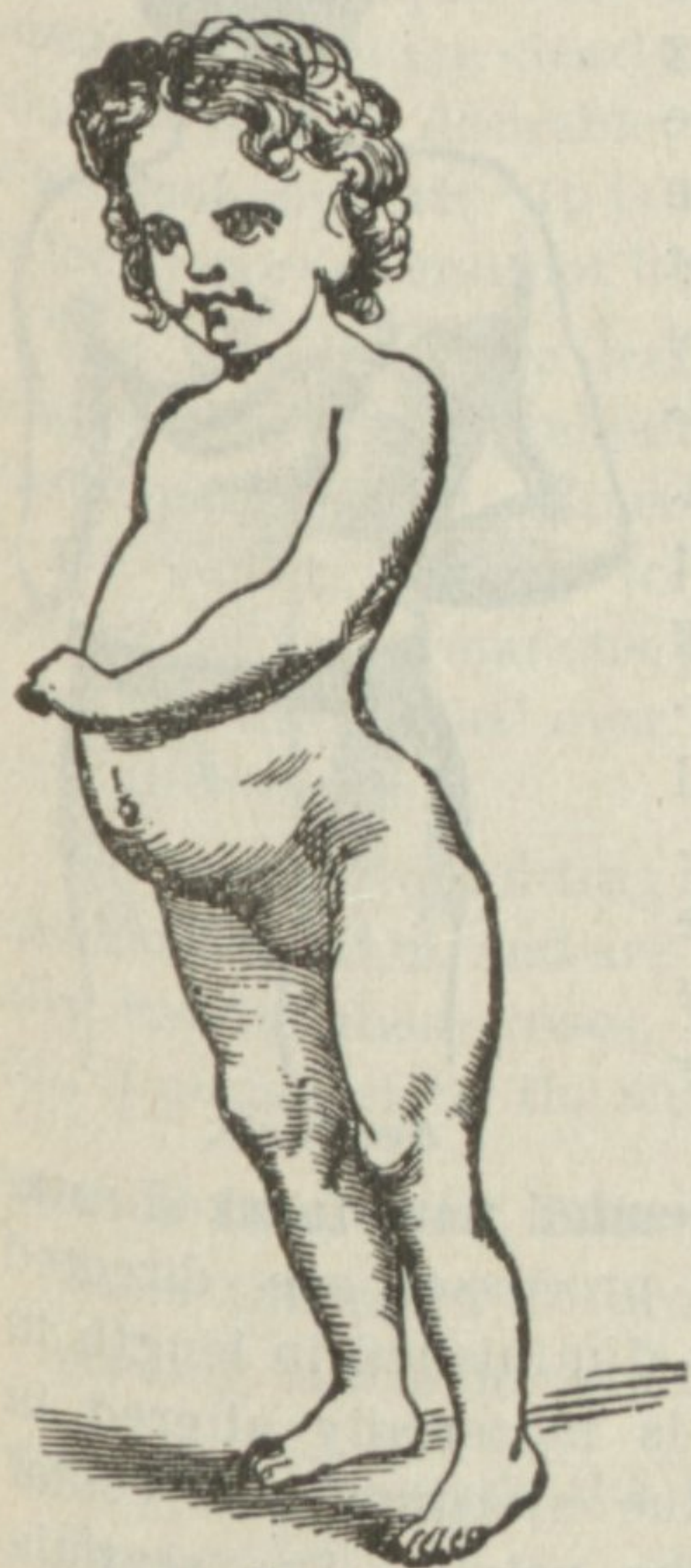
Lordosis, Anterior Curvature, Braces. "Another variety of distortion is an abnormal arching forwards of the loins. This kind of curvature frequently coexists with a bend of the whole course of the spine, the column forming a long arch with a deep hollow in the loins. The technical name by which this variety of distortion is known is 'lordosis.' Traction of the longissimus dorsi and sacro lumbalis muscles, or a wasting of the lumbar intervertebral cartilages on their posterior surfaces, are the principal causes of the condition. Each may exist apart from the other, or both may be found combined; the latter being the most common occurrence. Patients who suffer from this form of spinal distortion find it extremely difficult to walk or stand without throwing the abdomen forward in an unnatural and inelegant manner. The shoulders are generally rounded."—"Orthopraxy," Heather Bigg.

"Anterior curvature, 'lordosis,' or 'sway back,' is far less frequent than cyphosis. It occurs almost always in the lumbar region. In the later months of pregnancy it is a common condition, and is met with in individuals with unusual development of the stomach and abdominal viscera, or in cases of chronic abdominal tumor, fibroid, etc."—Wyeth.

"The treatment of this variety of spinal distortion must be conducted upon the same principles as that of posterior curvature. The pressure must be made to bear more particularly upon the abdomen and the lower portion of the chest in front, and upon the back and pelvis behind. A piece of elastic webbing will be found of great service in equalizing the compression of the abdomen, a matter of no little moment in regard

to the comfort of the patient, as well as to his ultimate recovery. When the curvature involves the cervical region, proper attention must be given to the support of the head."

—"System of Surgery." Gross.



Lordosis.