

PHELPS' HIP CRUTCH AND FIXATION SPLINT—Continued.

The patients are now placed upon crutches, and are never allowed to step upon the splint until they are cured. (See Figure.) This varies in time from one year to three or four. It will be observed that these splints, extending from below the heel to the axilla, prevent the limb from assuming an angle with the body. This is the reason why none of our cases recover with angular deformity. It will also be seen that, seizing the pelvis, as it does, with the pelvic band and steel ring, it fixes the joint, and this fixation is continued without motion from the commencement of the treatment until the patient is cured. This is the reason why our patients never recover with bony ankylosis. All degrees of limit of motion are seen in these cases—varying from never less than 10° up to perfect motion. The reason for this is that, holding the joint at perfect rest, nature goes on in her effort at cure uninterrupted by the trauma of motion. The constant stepping on a splint, as is allowed in the splints used by Sayre, Taylor and others, produces a constant trauma of the joint; new material is thrown out, and when finally the patient is cured, the cicatricial

Lateral traction is absolutely necessary to overcome the traction of the glutei muscles and the adductor groups. These muscles act in a line corresponding to the axis of the neck of the bone, and not of the shaft; and to relieve intra-articular pressure, it is necessary that lateral traction should be applied, or traction in the line of the axis of the neck, as is done in the splint illustrated.

Now, in the use of these splints, as I have already said, I never see bony ankylosis; no case recovers with angular deformity; and it is the exception to see a case with less than 10° of motion. That shortening of half an inch, which is almost always seen in cases treated by other splints, which shortening is due to intra-articular pressure, the result of muscular action, I do not see in my cases. The

2410b muscular action, I do not see in my cases. The shortening of my cases is only produced by extensive disease of the bone—the result of pathological changes, and not of pressure.

MEASUREMENTS REQUIRED.

1. Sex, age and weight of patient.
 2. Right or left.
 3. Circumference of Chest under Axilla.
 4. Circumference of Waist.
 5. Circumference between Iliac Crest and Trochanter Major.
 6. Circumference of Thigh at Perineum
 7. Circumference of middle of Thigh.
 8. Circumference of Knee.
 9. Circumference of Leg between Ankle and Knee Joints.
 10. Distance between Axilla and Iliac Crests.
 11. Distance between Iliac Crests and Trochanter Major.
 12. Distance between Trochanter Major and middle of Thigh.
 13. Distance between Perineum and middle of Knee Joint.
 14. Distance between Perineum and Sole of Foot.
 15. Send well fitting lace shoe for the well leg.
 16. Crutches, if wanted, (length should include height of elevation.)

PRICES :

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2410a	Single Splint, extending downward on inside of Limb.....	\$25 00 to \$35 00	
2410b	" " " " " outside of Limb.....	22 00 to 32 00	
2410c	Double Splint.....	45 00 to 65 00	
2410d	Plaster Strips, per pair.....	75	

Shoe Elevations, see page 58.