

see how quickly they become accustomed to the restraint.

The form of apparatus to be used for extension must be determined by the surgeon. If a Sayer's cuirass with jury-mast be selected, the nurse may be called upon to assist in its adjustment, and will be given special directions about its care and readjustment. The child is usually bound fast to the apparatus by roller bandages, and the feet secured to the adjustable foot-pieces. The padding of the cuirass should be done with great care, so that no part of the body will be subjected to undue pressure. When the apparatus is taken off for readjustment—usually once a week—the child must be kept in the horizontal posture, and handled with care, so that the diseased vertebræ may not be irritated. At such a time the nurse should examine carefully for incipient bed-sores, and should also give the patient a thorough sponge-bath. Gentle massage of the limbs at this time will also be agreeable to the child, and will, to some extent, prevent atrophy of the muscles. It is not customary to apply the fixing apparatus until the fever has abated. Until this time has passed, the patient is kept in the horizontal posture on the mattress.

For children of four years, and older, the plaster jacket is preferable to the cuirass, for when the jacket is properly applied the patient need not be confined to the recumbent posture. Many other apparatus have been devised for the treatment of spinal disease, but plaster-of-Paris, and crinoline, make a jacket at once light, inconspicuous, and inexpensive, and are to be preferred in most cases.

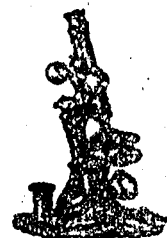
Many of these cases of Pott's disease are obliged to wear the apparatus, for immobilizing the spine, for a period of from two to three years.

ANOTHER CAUSE OF NEURALGIA.

DR. ALEX. JAMES states that malaria may cause neuralgia, and that it is especially likely to affect the first division of the trifacial nerve, but may also cause cardiàlgia, gastralgia, etc. There may be painful affections of the sensory nerves, or localized paræsthesia or anæsthesia, or disturbance of function of some of the special sensory nerves, resulting from malaria. Malaria may cause paralysis, tremors, cramp-like muscular contractions, or even convulsive movements. These motor disturbances are most frequent in the face.

Medical Matters.

SNAKE BITES.



A READER has asked us for some information on this subject, and it is somewhat difficult to condense into the compass of one short article. Especially in India and South Africa the subject has received very great consideration, because many thousands of lives are lost each year by the bites of poisonous reptiles. Considering the large numbers and many varieties in which these creatures are found, and that the natives habitually go unshod and to a large extent unclothed, it cannot be regarded as surprising that such frequent fatalities occur. Europeans, of course, are much less liable to injury, because the poisonous fangs of most serpents would fail to penetrate through their boots, and even through their clothes. When accidents do occur among the latter, it is therefore almost invariably on the hands, face, or neck that the bite is received. In every district there is some popular remedy. In India, especially, remarkable results have been gained by the injection of an antitoxin produced from the venom of serpents. But this requires further investigation and results before it can be accepted as an invariable cure. The cardinal principles upon which all snake bites must be treated are, however, very simple. It is clear that the poison conveyed by such an injury is most rapidly absorbed by the blood, and that in its constitution it must closely resemble that of tetanus or "lock-jaw." The first and immediate necessity, therefore, is to prevent, as rapidly and as completely as possible, the absorption of the poison. A tight ligature should, therefore, if possible, be applied at once between the bitten part and the heart. For example, if the hand is bitten, a piece of string or a handkerchief should be tied tightly around the forearm. Then a free cut is usually made through and across the bitten part so as to cause free bleeding, and so wash away, if possible, the poison; the bleeding being encouraged, and the cleansing increased, by washing the wound in water. If a strong antiseptic preparation—iodic-hydrarg., sublimate, or carbolic acid—is at hand, and can be added to the water, so much the better. Finally, a

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