

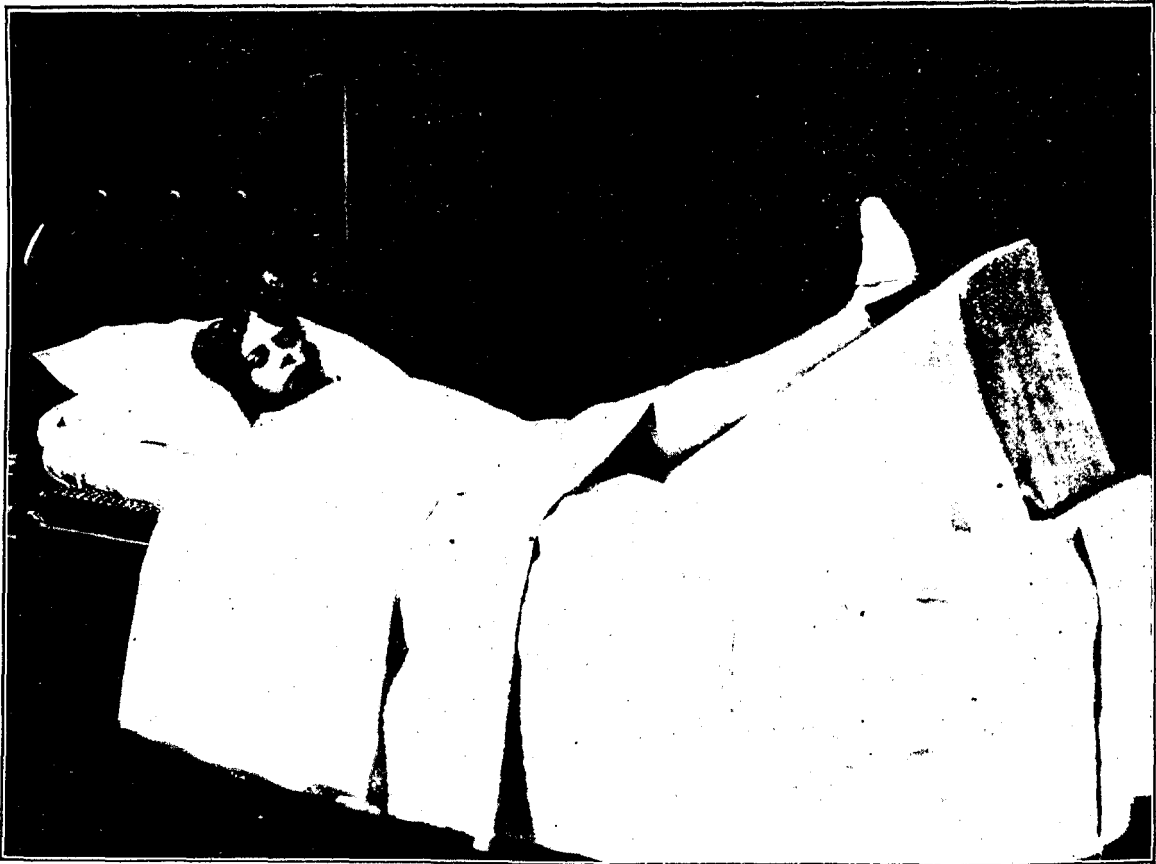
patient's knees, the two ends of the enveloping sheet being tucked under the mattress on each side.

The patient's head will, for the first few hours, be kept low, so the pillow may be tied with pieces of bandage flat against the headpiece of the bed, to prevent the patient's head from coming in contact with the iron bars. A small piece of mackintosh and a towel should occupy the usual position of the pillow, to preserve the bottom sheet from being soiled during post-anæsthetic vomiting; this towel and mackintosh are easily changed with-

BED ARRANGED FOR DOUBLE EXTENSION TO LOWER LIMBS.

The bedstead for a case of double extension need not be fitted with a chain spring, but under the whole extent of the mattress there should be firm pieces of board.

These boards are commonly called "fracture-boards," because they are used in the preparation of beds for cases of fracture. The mattress should be especially firm and hard, and the upper bedclothes cradled, to avoid their resting on the extension



Bed arranged with inclined plane.

out unduly disturbing the patient. The upper bedclothes should have a division across the centre from side to side, and the patient be protected from their weight by a cradle. Two sets of upper bed clothes will be required, of about half the usual length (ordinary sized sheets, &c., folded as required, answer very well); the two sets should just overlap one another across the centre of the cradle, and may very easily be separated and turned back, when necessary, so that the nurse can attend to the necessary ministrations, with practically no disturbance to the patient.*

apparatus and thus interfering with its action. The foot of the bed is raised by means of blocks, so that the body tends to gravitate in an opposite direction and thus provides counter extension. The bedclothes are carefully arranged over the cradle and folded

* Many abdominal surgeons now prefer that the bed for such cases should be made in the ordinary way, the top clothes consisting of a light blanket next the patient, and, over a cradle, a sheet, a blanket, and a light and porous coverlet. In these days of aseptic surgery and undisturbed dressings, there is not the same necessity as in days gone by for the divided bed clothes. The wishes of the surgeon should always be ascertained.

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