

**BACK INJURIES AND THEIR  
SIGNIFICANCE UNDER THE  
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION  
AND OTHER ACTS**

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Back injuries and their significance under the Workmen's compensation and other acts by  
Archibald McKendrick

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**ARCHIBALD MCKENDRICK**

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## BACK INJURIES

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# BACK INJURIES

## AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

UNDER THE  
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION AND OTHER ACTS

BY

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## PREFACE

BACK injuries have a bad reputation. The workman looks upon them with apprehension, the insurance company with doubt, the

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enter on a long contest. The medical examiner is faced with the difficulty of estimating the true value of the subjective symptoms in the comparative absence of physical signs. His suspicion is born of the frequent disparity between these two. The degree of his suspicion will probably vary with the locality of his practice, for it is the writer's experience that in mining villages the workman

Gift of Dr. G. S. ...

is longer off work after a back injury, and is more likely to lapse into a neurasthenic state than is the case in large industrial centres.

The lawyers are puzzled by the conflicting and often contradictory reports of the surgeons, and suffer from the lack of authoritative opinions in medical literature.

This little book is offered to the medical and legal professions as an honest attempt to throw some light into the existing darkness, and to suggest some practical methods of testing the genuineness or otherwise of the complaints made. As it is in the minor rather than the major injuries that difficulty as to diagnosis and doubt as to treatment chiefly arise, more attention has been devoted to the common and everyday cases than to the rarer and more severe forms of injury.

ARCHIBALD McKENDRICK.

2 COATES PLACE,  
EDINBURGH, 1916.



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# BACK INJURIES

## STRUCTURE OF THE SPINAL COLUMN

### THE SPINAL COLUMN

SPINE.—The spine, vertebral column, or backbone may be looked upon as a flexible pedestal whose base is the pelvis, and on whose apex the head is supported. It forms the only connection between the upper and lower segments of the body, and acts as a bony tunnel for the reception of the spinal cord. The cord does not become pressed upon during movements of the spine, because the range of movement between the individual vertebræ is slight, and because the cord does not completely fill the neural canal. The individual vertebræ comprising the spine differ slightly in the various regions of the spine, but the general characters of a vertebra are as follows (see Fig. 1):

Each vertebra is composed of two essential parts, a body in front and a neural arch behind.