

**ON HIP-JOINT DISEASE, WITH
REFERENCE ESPECIALLY TO
TREATMENT BY MECHANICAL MEANS,
FOR THE RELIEF OF CONTRACTION AND
DEFORMITY OF THE AFFECTED LIMB**

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WILLIAM CURTIS HUGMAN

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Plate I.



Designed by Daniel Brown Esq.

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BY

WILLIAM CURTIS HUGMAN, F.R.C.S.,

LATE SURGEON TO THE HOSPITAL FOR DEFORMITIES, GREAT PORTLAND ROAD,
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P R E F A C E.

IN publishing the following account of some cases of Hip-joint Disease, which for some years past I have made a special subject of attention, it is my object to show the advantages and applicability of a system of mechanical management, which, when employed in conjunction with the ordinary local and general curative measures, has been found, in numerous instances, successful in preventing the lameness and distortion so commonly a consequence of this formidable malady.

Since the first issue of this treatise was submitted to the profession, it has been a source of great gratification to me to have received many flattering testimonials of the efficacy of the treatment proposed.

Several of my professional brethren into whose hands it has fallen, and who have been induced to adopt the treatment I advocate, have arrived at the same happy results which have attended my own personal endeavours.

I have also the pleasure of recording that my plans for the mechanical management of the limb, having for their object the relief of the consecutive contraction and deformity, have been deemed worthy of a most favorable consideration in recent editions of several of the best standard works on

modern practical surgery. Such gratifying assurances, and the confirmatory evidence acquired by five years' additional experience, are sufficient claims for placing a high value on the system advocated. I have, however, reason to believe that the profession at large have not had an opportunity of forming a fair estimate of its merits; but I venture to hope that a more extensive circulation of my views may attract the general attention of the medical world to a new method of treating a class of cases which has ever been found to present more than ordinary difficulties to the surgeon.

The important object to be attained is, that the shortening and contraction of the affected limb, which so commonly occur during the progress of the disease, may be prevented, as I hope will be satisfactorily shown to have been the case in many instances related in the following pages.

An almost accidental circumstance first directed my attention to the fact that these cases admitted of a greater amount of relief than had been previously attempted for them. Some years since, when Surgeon to the Hospital for Spinal Diseases and Deformities, now the National Orthopædic, a little girl named Lucy Jelly, the child of poor parents, living at Ham Common, was admitted a patient for hip disease. She had been recently discharged from University College Hospital, on the subsidence of the active symptoms, with a limb shortened to the extent of nearly four

inches. Intimation was given to the Governor who had recommended the case to us, that there was little or no chance of effecting more than had been already done; she was, however, retained at his request as an in-patient for three months. The means and appliances recommended in these pages were employed, and to my surprise, the limb gradually elongated, so that she was dismissed from the Hospital to all appearance cured of the deformity, and able to walk moderately well without assistance. Never before having seen or heard of such results, I concluded that the cure would not be permanent, and that the elongation of the limb was probably owing to the straightening of the spinal column in the lumbar region, and the removal of the oblique direction of the pelvis, which always more or less obtains during the course of this affection.

Some months after this patient had left the Hospital, another similar case presented itself for admission, and being anxious to learn the result of the treatment in Jelly's case, I went to Ham for the purpose of seeing her, and was pleased as well as surprised to find that she had in every respect recovered, without the slightest lameness, the length and direction of the limb was perfectly restored. Latterly she was in the habit of walking from Ham to Richmond and back, a distance of nearly four miles, without more than ordinary fatigue, and with little or no pain to the affected limb. The unexpectedly favorable issue in this case has induced me to employ the same means whenever an

opportunity occurred, and the results have been such that I now submit my treatment to the profession in the form of this *brochure*.

I have added the details of several recent cases, with a view of correcting an error which some of my surgical friends have fallen into, by supposing that the mechanical treatment was only applicable in cases where the active symptoms have subsided, and that the relief of the deformity could only then be attempted. This notion I am very anxious to correct, the fact being that the most successful cases are those in which the treatment has been pursued from the commencement.

55, GUILDFORD STREET, LONDON, W.C.

November, 1865.

ON
HIP-JOINT DISEASE.

INTRODUCTION.

ANY reflecting person perambulating our public streets must be struck with the appearance of many individuals suffering from bodily infirmity in respect to their locomotive powers. He will observe some limping in their gait, with bent knees, and one foot elevated several inches from the ground by means of a high-heeled shoe, or other equivalent mechanical contrivance, aided (it may be) by the support of a crutch or walking-stick, and at the same time manifesting marked indications of bodily suffering, and debility of the constitution. Many such unfortunate persons are reduced to this state by having been the victims of a tedious and painful disease situated in the hip-joint, which is unfortunately of very frequent occurrence, especially in individuals of delicate frame, and of the scrofulous diathesis.

It has been partly such a contemplation, and partly by accidental circumstances, that I have been induced to become a close observer of this disease, and the treatment pursued in alleviating it; and it has ap-