

**CURE OF CLUB FOOT,  
BENT KNEE, WRY  
NECK, SPINAL AND  
OTHER DEFORMITIES**

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Cure of club foot, bent knee, wry neck, spinal and other deformities by Gustav Krauss

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**GUSTAV KRAUSS**

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**CURE OF CLUB-FOOT,  
BENT KNEE, WRY-NECK, SPINAL,  
AND OTHER DEFORMITIES.**

WITH  
REMARKS ON THE LATE PROGRESS OF ART  
AND ON THE  
**Necessity of a Public Institution.**

**BY GUSTAV KRAUSS, M.D.**

MEMBER OF SEVERAL LEARNED SOCIETIES.

WITH CASES AND WOOD-CUTS.



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1839.

831.

Prüfe mit Sorgfalt, wende an die entsprechenden Mittel und Kräfte, folge mit wachsamem Auge den Veränderungen der Natur:—und zu deiner Verwunderung werden des menschlichen Körpers gestörte Formen sich umwandeln zu Ebenmass und Wohlgestalt.

(Examine with care, use appropriate means and powers, follow the changes of nature with watchful eye:—and to your astonishment the distorted forms of the human body will change into symmetry and beauty.)

## P R E F A C E.

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IN offering these pages to the public, I obey the dictates of my heart, and discharge a duty which I feel due to those of my poorer patients, whose misfortune it is to labour under deformities.

A tour for purposes purely scientific, brought me to England in the year 1837.

The division of the tendons as a remedy for deformities, at that time scarcely practised in this country, induced me, rather for the sake of professional investigation than with any other view, to undertake the treatment of some cases. The result of these (contrary to my original design) led me on to farther exertion. With zeal and delight I continued my labours. Obeying the calls of the afflicted, I penetrated the remotest districts of London, unremittingly seeking to bring to perfection the powers of art in the cure of deformities.

The improvements I have made in the mode of treatment, and the various new mechanical instruments I have invented, might be brought to testify my success; but the best proofs of it are the cures I have effected, particularly those of congenital club-foot, of the highest degree, and in patients of an advanced age.

It is far from my intention to exalt my own merits, or cast blame on others for not having been equally successful. The cause of my success is attributable to my having dedicated myself more to this subject, and taken peculiar pleasure in its study. Shrinking from no sacrifice where the welfare of my patients and the development of science were concerned, I proceeded steadily in my career.

But while my activity has ever been on the increase, I find serious impediments to contend against: in the dispersed position of the patients on the one hand, and the unfavourable worldly circumstances of many of them on the other.

My sincere desire is, therefore, that the profession, in common with all friends of humanity, should acknowledge the necessity, and heartily assist in the establishment of a public institution, for the relief of the poorer classes labouring under deformities.

With this view, and in order to illustrate by facts the great improvements which have been made in Orthopædia, I submit these pages to the public. It results from their design, that I should avoid a purely scientific treatment of the subject; and I have endeavoured as much as possible to make it intelligible to the general reader.

I have evinced elsewhere to my professional brethren how I have estimated and promoted the subject, considered scientifically. I refer here to



the communications I have made to the medical societies of the metropolis; and I shall do it further in a *treatise* which I have submitted to the judgment of the Academie des Sciences in Paris, and which will shortly be published.

Considering the multitude of cures which I have effected, I might easily have increased the number of cases cited in these pages, but I feel that sufficient has been laid before the reader.

Could I paint in lively colours how my heart has been pained, when, however desirous, I have been unable to render assistance to the afflicted: when compelled to witness unfeeling parents neglect the proper remedies to rescue their offspring from deformity; to see adults incapable of bestowing their time and attention on the requisite treatment, because obliged to toil for their daily bread: could I by words express what I have so often felt, and make others sympathize in my feelings, the success of this appeal would be certain.

A short time since I met a poor man, painfully dragging his body along upon crutches; for both knees were bent at right angles, one only being assisted by a wooden leg. Pity and scientific interest induced me to address him. He told me that his limbs had been in that condition from his earliest infancy, and that he obtained his livelihood as a tailor. I spoke to him of the hope of his deformity being removed. His reply was, that he had indeed heard of wonderful cures of this

description, but was afraid the treatment would be incompatible with his circumstances; that an acquaintance of his had undergone the operation of dividing the tendons, but being unable to relax his daily employment, a cure could not be accomplished. This acquaintance was Coleman, whose case I have described, page 32.

I address these pages to all who love to assist the unfortunate. I have begun, and continue to collect subscriptions for the establishment of a public institution for the gratuitous reception and treatment of the poor. When the requisite number of subscribers shall have given in their names, a meeting will be called, to choose a committee, and determine upon the necessary regulations.

May this beginning receive the co-operation of philanthropists, and may none refuse it assistance according to their ability.

Let the work be but begun, and its usefulness will not be tardy in developing itself.

G. KRAUSS, M.D.

## ORTHOPÆDIA.

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IF we cast our eyes on the history and development of Orthopædia, (i.e. the science of curing the deformities of the human body,) we cannot fail to be surprised that a branch of the healing art, perhaps more accessible than any other to the influence of science, has, till of late, been the subject of such slight investigations, that its study has been strange to the physician, and that it has for the most part been left to the rough hand of the mechanic to restore the disfigured parts of man's frame to their just proportions.

Is not the human form the most beautiful and noble in the broad field of creation? Is not the disturbance of its symmetry equally unpleasant to the eye as burdensome to the sufferer? and does it not react injuriously on the whole system in many ways? From the remotest antiquity the sculptor's hand has been ambitious to imitate, by the hammer and chisel, the noble forms of the human body; and this attempt has always been justly considered one of the fairest exertions of art. Yet the medical practitioner remained without the knowledge requisite to restore a deformed frame to its natural proportions; and, as if the human body were an inanimate mass, requiring none but mechanical powers and measurements, he resigned this office to the mechanic, ignorant alike of the internal structure of its parts and the laws which govern life.

Surely, to restore the disfigured form of a man is not less honourable than the healing of other internal and external diseases; and which is the nobler task for the surgeon, entirely to separate with the knife a deformed and unserviceable limb from