

WO
P544s
1841

A STATEMENT
OF THE
RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
PHILADELPHIA,
SURGEON'S BANDAGE INSTITUTE,

WITH A
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SOME OF THE DISEASES REQUIRING
THE USE OF BANDAGES.

ALSO,
A DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL IMPROVED BANDAGES KEPT IN THIS INSTITUTE.

FIRST EDITION.

PUBLISHED BY
BENJAMIN C. EVERETT,
PRINCIPAL OF THE INSTITUTE
No. 11 Arcade, East Avenue.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED FOR THE PUBLISHER.

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P R E M I S E .

THIS PAMPHLET is most respectfully presented to Physicians, Surgeons, and others who may feel interested in obtaining suitable BANDAGES for the relief of those laboring under the following diseases:

All the varieties of HERNIA or RUPTURE peculiar to either sex. PROLAPSUS UTERI or *Falling of the Womb*, in its several stages. PROLAPSUS ANI or *protrusion of the Bowel*; PILES, TUMOURS, CORPULENCY, PREGNANCY, when it renders the person unable to exercise; VARICOSE VEINS, or enlargement of veins in the legs, &c.; ANEURISM, or enlargement of the arteries; ERYSIPELAS swellings of the limbs; DISLOCATED or weak JOINTS; DISTORTED SPINE; CLUBFEET; ADVANCED BREAST or SHOULDER; CONTRACTED CHEST attended with pain; FRACTURED LIMBS; DISTORTED LIMBS in children; PARALYZED LIMBS, or *inability to walk*; HYDROCELE; VARICOCELE; WOUNDS, BANDAGES *for the relief Sea-Sickness, &c. &c.*

An establishment known as the PHILADELPHIA SURGEON'S BANDAGE INSTITUTE, was commenced some months since in the city of Philadelphia, in which the several varieties of bandages required for the relief of the diseases above stated, can be obtained. Trusses, Spring Bandages for Prolapsus Uteri, Belts, &c. are kept constantly on hand.

In this short space of time, several decided improvements in Bandages have been made. An apparatus of peculiar construction, has lately been invented by Dr. Knight of New York, by which a patient was enabled to walk, who had lost all power of motion in his legs, having been confined to a recumbent position for several years, and wholly unable to change his position without assistance. Similar bandages will be constructed if ordered, as we shall make every effort to obtain all the latest improvements in the construction of bandages, having made arrangements to that effect.

All Bandages are constructed under the direction of a Surgeon—superior mechanics being employed for that purpose, which in a word, renders the Institute a *dépôt of improvements in the construction of Surgical Bandages for the relief of the afflicted!*

From these few remarks it will be observed that this establishment is not a mere TRUSS OFFICE, or SURGEON'S CUTTLERY ESTABLISHMENT; but an institution for the improvement of a particular and important branch of Surgical Science! We would here remark that much greater success has attended the enterprize than could reasonably have been expected in so short a space of time, and without the aid of newspaper puffing, or a bombast of names, a means of deceiving the afflicted by misrepresentation; but, it has increased in direct ratio with improvements, and the satisfaction that has

been afforded Physicians, Surgeons and Patients, and which augurs well for the future.

RULES OF THE PHILADELPHIA SURGEON'S BANDAGE INSTITUTE.

1st. All PHYSICIANS and SURGEONS who obtain Bandages from this Institution are considered PATRONS, and are entitled to attention from the PRINCIPAL of the Institute, who will have constructed to their order, and in accordance to their direction, Bandages to suit special cases.

2d. All Bandages whether improvements or those in common use in foreign countries; if ordered and described by a PATRON, to be made in this Institute—are considered to be the property of the Institute, it being the privilege of Patrons to use similar bandages if desired; *such bandages to be known in the Institute* by the name of the inventor or person who may introduce a useful bandage not in common use in this country.

3d. PATIENTS, wishing to obtain Bandages from this Institute, are respectfully requested to state whether under treatment or not, by a regular Physician or Surgeon, if under such treatment, it is expected that they will obtain their consent, and under such circumstances, no person connected with this Institute, will be permitted to intimate a different course of treatment from that prescribed by their attending Physician or Surgeon, nor shall they make any inquiries as to their treatment.

4th. PATIENTS who are not under treatment by a regular Physician or Surgeon, can obtain Bandages and have the advice of the Principal of the Institute.

Ladies can have a female attendant, if desired, to visit them at their dwellings, by paying a moderate fee, or at the Institute, without charge.

[Physicians and Surgeons are respectfully requested to give particular attention to fitting the bandages to their patients, as much depends upon their proper adaptation in affording relief to the patient.]

6th. If requested by a Physician or Surgeon, the Principal of the Institute will take charge of the fitting of bandages to their patients without extra charge. Patients who are not under treatment and feel so disposed, can obtain bandages and apply them themselves; but no accountability will be taken for their success in affording relief, as in such instances they most frequently fail.

TO THE AFFLICTED.—The following is a brief description of the most common diseases requiring the use of Bandages for relief; and the serious consequences attending the neglect of making application to a proper source for relief; also, a description of a few of such bandages as are used in the Philadelphia Surgeon's Bandage Institute, for the cure and also relief of such diseases as are incurable.

DESCRIPTION OF HERNIA.

HERNIA. This term is derived from the Greek language and signifies a limb, or proceeding from, as a portion of the bowels proceeds from the whole mass, and passes through the walls of the abdomen, carrying before them most generally, a thin membrane called the *PERITONÆUM*, which forms a sack, and is called the *hernial sack*. This sack containing the bowels, forms a bulging out or tumour at the point wherever it protrudes under the skin, and when distinguished from other tumours, is called a *rupture*.

This protrusion of the bowels takes place most frequently in the *groin* and at the *naval*; and occasionally cases present, of a protrusion at various other parts of the abdomen. These tumours sometimes are so small as not to be discovered by the afflicted, and to such, occasionally, the most fatal consequences ensue, as the real difficulty is not discovered, and the patient dies from strangulation of the bowels—a small portion having been forced through a very small opening, which becomes swollen and contracted, and if not relieved by the knife, or the inflammation subdued so as to relieve the compressed intestine; it is as sure death as if we were to tie the bowel with a cord and permit it to remain so! This state of disease frequently takes place where a large portion of the bowels are protruded, but, in such cases, patients are not generally deceived as to the difficulty; consequently we would admonish all who are afflicted with rupture, (let it be large or small,) to wear a truss which will not permit the intestine to escape, for however skillfully treated, when strangulation of the bowel takes place, their lives are endangered; as gangrene or mortification of the bowel may take place after it is replaced, from the injury it has sustained by pressure, or from the inflammation which may ensue after a skillful operation has been performed.

CAUSES OF HERNIA.

There appears to be a predisposition to Hernia in some persons, dependant upon the laxity of their systems, and in others at particular times—after a protracted illness, the system being in a debilitated condition, the bowels descend and bear forcibly upon the lower and front part of the abdomen; and being natural openings there, called rings, for the passing out of ligaments, blood vessels, &c., (and these openings also relaxed,) a slight exertion induces a small portion of the bowels to enter, and thus gradually the aperture is enlarged and

a large portion of them protrude. In some instances ruptures are produced by accidents, such as falls, &c. ; also, from active exertion after eating hearty, or by coughing, lifting, jumping and dancing. Another prolific cause of ruptures, is, stepping unprepared and suddenly off the curbstone of the sidewalks in the City, or into holes, especially after eating hearty or drinking much, which also increases the difficulty where trusses are used that do not sustain the whole mass of bowels above the aperture, such as those in common use. From this brief enumeration of causes, others may be inferred.

TREATMENT OF HERNIA.

To treat Hernia skillfully, an intimate acquaintance with the anatomical structure of the parts affected is very essential. Trusses at this day, are most generally relied upon, and they ought to be constructed upon sound surgical principles, so as not only to close the aperture through which the intestine has escaped, but also remove the predisposition to an escape, and not press upon important parts, such as blood vessels and nerves. Patients have had their lower extremities paralyzed and rendered impotent by the use of trusses improperly constructed, and other serious inconveniences have been the result of the use of instruments constructed by ignorant pretenders to surgical skill.

Properly constructed trusses and judiciously applied, are the only sure and safe means for the relief or cure of Hernia, and nearly all recent cases can be cured by proper attention and the use of a suitable truss. No injury will be sustained by the use of a properly constructed truss, if carefully applied by a person acquainted with the anatomy of the parts.

CONSTRUCTION OF TRUSSES FOR HERNIA.

If a truss spring is not properly tempered, there is danger to be apprehended from its liability to break and wound the wearer, or to bend and press upon some important nerve or blood vessel. This difficulty may also arise from the form of a spring applied by a person unacquainted with the location of such nerve or blood vessel.

The construction of pads or cushions invites particular attention: if a pad is too convex, *it will enlarge the aperture through which the intestine has escaped*, and if too concave, *it will retain the intestine in its cavity*, and thus subject the patient to strangulated hernia! yet, there are persons so situated as to require a convex or a concave pad. Pads that are hard and unyielding as those made of wood or ivory, are dangerous in the extreme, unless the patient is under the attention and direction of a skillful Surgeon, who will so adjust the truss as not to permit the bowel to escape or the pad to press upon important parts, that if pressed by such hard material, will be destroyed, and the patient if a male, maimed! This accident is constantly to be apprehended, where the patient applies the truss from day to day himself, however skillfully it was first applied and such pads will, also, excite an inflammation which may extend to the peritonæum, and thus cause the death of the wearer, or the inflammation

may be confined to the ring or aperture through which the intestine escapes, and if a small portion should protrude, strangulation would be most likely to ensue, or the intestine be bruised, and mortification take place! and in all instances where the patient is compelled to labor and much force is required from the truss, the parts pressed upon will be absorbed and become thin—the opening enlarged, and thus requiring from time to time an increase of force and an enlarged pad, rendering the patient constantly in a more deplorable condition. Firm pads are necessary and such as will retain their form. If a pad loses its form by wearing, as those constructed by layers of blanketting piled upon a level plate of metal, the padding will be pressed from the edge and the bowel thus be permitted to escape and be liable to get bruised by the edge of the metal plate, therefore, such are very objectionable, yet, are in most common use.

The main object intended in the construction of common trusses, is to concentrate and maintain a sufficiency of force to close the aperture through which the bowels protrude; consequently, much attention has been given to the construction of pads, and it cannot be doubted, that much improvement has been made in pads, also, in retaining them over the rupture with a sufficient force to prevent a protrusion of the bowels—but when this is accomplished, and by whatever formed pad, we are well aware that the bowels exert an irregular downward force against the pad when the person is walking, which has a tendency to force a portion of the bowels into the aperture; whether a flat, or concave, or convex pad is used—the aperture in either case, is thus kept open, and the bowels prevented from escaping by the force of the truss upon the external opening; consequently, it is most obvious, that few cases can be cured; and only those where the aperture is small and extra exertion avoided, thus, preventing the sudden jolting of the bowels against the aperture, which, in ordinary labor, cannot be avoided by the use of the trusses that have heretofore been in common use, as they only accomplish one intention—that of preventing an escape of the bowel.

Dr. James Knight's improved truss accomplishes two intentions; *first*, it sustains the gravitating force of the whole mass of bowels above the aperture through which they have a tendency to protrude, and thus prevents the forcing of the bowels against the aperture; *second*, a very light pressure upon a soft cushion is sufficient to prevent a protrusion of the bowels. The pad of this truss is constructed with a firm margin or ring, and an elastic soft centre. Thus, it will be observed, that its tendency is to approximate the aperture, (which is not affected by the jolting of the bowels,) and is not liable to debilitate the parts, as is the case by the constant use of hard pads and great pressure. This truss, also, requires no back pad, which is so very annoying to the wearer, nor can it be observed when applied under the tightest pantaloons! As proof of their superiority over such as are in common use, such instruments have been modified so as to act somewhat similar to this truss; and at this day, nearly all trusses used, have been modified, that is, they have been made to turn in on the lower edge of the front pads, so as to have a tendency to lift the whole mass of bowels: but they have all failed to accomplish the

desired effect, as all the force is applied upon the aperture ; and a pad not constructed so as to conform to the rotundity of the abdomen, the turning in on the lower edge, is an actual preventive to retaining the bowel *en situe*, as pressure is made by the lower edge of the pad alone, and the bowel permitted to escape on either side of the pad, and are difficulties to be apprehended from trusses thus constructed ; to obviate which, much pressure is requisite so as to force the pad deep into the walls of the abdomen, and it is then said, their Truss will retain the bowel—true, but at the expense of much unnecessary pain to the wearer.

The spring used by Dr. K. with its proper place of location when applied, clearly points out its operation—it gives support to the pendant part of the abdomen, and thus sustains the whole mass of bowels and prevents them from bearing forcibly upon the relaxed rings or openings through which the intestines has escaped ; by this means, the predisposition to rupture is removed, and much less pressure required to retain the bowels ; consequently, the tone to those parts is more readily restored, as the pressure required to retain the bowels is not sufficient to impede the circulation, as by those trusses before described, where so much pressure is required to retain the bowel in its proper place.

The pad which Dr. K. used, is so constructed as to correspond to the actual shape of the abdomen, and attached to the spring that encircles the body by means of curved springs, having a lateral movement, the upper edge of the pads being from a half to an inch below the horizontal spring, to which they are attached at right angles. The curvature of these pad springs, places the pads in such position as to act like that of the hand applied to reduce the bowel and lift the lower part of the abdomen.

A further explanation of the mode of action of this improved truss, appears essential ; as some have said its elastic force upon the wearer is destroyed by the strap which completes the circle around the body. This has been said, we presume, without reflecting upon the conformation of the instrument. When it is placed upon the body, and before fastening the strap, it will be observed that the lower edge of the front pads touch the abdomen, and when the strap is drawn so as to bring the front half of the horizontal spring (*or in other words the spring that encircles the body*) close to the abdomen, it is contorted or twisted, and a constant tendency to straighten gives an elastic force to the rupture pad, and an equable force given under all possible in flexions or attitudes of the body. Again, the pressure is equalized around the body and no danger to be apprehended from pressure on the back or spine, as in trusses having a pad on each end of the spring, which have a tendency to paralyse the lower extremities, especially in children.

In all cases of single rupture, we think it very advisable to wear a double truss, that is, a pad in each groin, as they will be worn with much more comfort and prevent a second rupture, which most frequently takes place, as it appears that the balance is destroyed by the pressure upon one side, and thus another rupture is induced. This is the opinion of many modern Surgeons, and experience appears to prove it to be a fact worthy of notice.

There are several diseases peculiar to the parts affected by rupture, and are frequently mistaken for the latter; such as a swelling of the glands in the groin, dropsy of the neighboring part, technically called *Hydrocele*, and an enlargement of the veins called *Varicocele*, an application of a truss intended for rupture, is very injurious in either of those diseases, although frequently applied to persons thus affected, and hence, the necessity of being examined by an experienced Surgeon, whenever affected in those parts. It is well, perhaps, here to mention the fact, that sometimes after a suitable truss is worn for an actual rupture, *Hydrocele* takes place, and Surgeons without reflecting upon this fact, pronounce the person who applied the Truss, an ignorant pretender, when in fact, it ought to be said of themselves, as frequently they are not aware of the fact, that the former disease might be the cause of the then present disease. It would appear that the disease is induced by the former distention of parts; a suspensory bandage ought to have been applied, and indeed, whenever there has been much protrusion of bowels, the latter ought to be used, and is very applicable in the treatment of those diseases.

PROLAPSUS UTERI.

PROLAPSUS, to fall or slip down. **UTERUS**, the womb. A dislocation or falling of the womb is one of the most distressing diseases with which females are afflicted, and none to which they are more subject. There are various stages of this disease; a complete protrusion but seldom takes place, hence it is, that so many are deceived as to what is their disease; the slightest displacement of that organ makes such a decided impression upon the whole nervous system, as to be well calculated to deceive not only the patient, but the medical attendant. Thus, many are doomed to drag out a most miserable existence, receiving the taunts of unfeeling friends, who accuse them of being hysterical, and their disease only existing in their imagination, and which can be cured only by the use of a bandage and other judicious treatment.

CAUSES OF PROLAPSUS UTERI.

The primary cause of this disease is dependant upon all such agencies as have a tendency to debilitate and relax the system, whilst ordinary exertion most frequently completes the derangement. Tight lacing and dancing in warm weather, are prolific causes of this disease amongst young females; dancing soon after a protracted illness, or rising too soon after *confinement*—heavy lifting when much fatigued, as in the exercises of washerwomen—stepping from an eminence unprepared when the system is relaxed, or at such times standing for a great length of time, or taking very long walks so as to become very much fatigued. There are numerous other causes than those enumerated, which produce the disease in the following manner:—The parts which sustain the bowels, yields to the weight or gravitating force and permits them to descend—consequently there is a great fullness of the lower part of the abdomen; this condition is facilitated by tight lacing—the bowels do not long continue in this

location, they descend downward and backward—press upon the womb and slightly displace it, which causes unnatural discharges and excruciating distress at particular periods, also, by the pressure, costiveness, piles, and protrusion of those parts take place with a numbness of the thighs—bearing down sensations, cramp in the calves of the legs, the nervous system becomes excited, and other parts are affected by sympathy; the patient becomes dyspeptic, feels a kind of voidness at the pit of the stomach—pain in the back and side—cough ensues, and by the irritation, consumption is established, and after months and years of the most distressing torment; harrassed by the alternating of hope and despair—taking nauseous drugs, many of which by their anodyne effects, in a measure quiet the pain: but alas! they all fail to give relief, although increased to an alarming extent—when some other of the same class, but more powerful, is administered, until the nerves overpowered, fail to give signals of distress; and the patient expires! All this frequently takes place when there is but a slight displacement of parts, which are readily restored by the use of a bandage properly constructed and applied.

TREATMENT OF PROLAPSUS UTERI.

The treatment of this disease as has just been intimated, is most readily relieved by the use of a proper bandage, and giving particular attention to avoid all such agencies as have a tendency to produce the stated effects, but in some instances, the system is so much impaired, that it requires much care and direction from a skilful physician, when the patient will frequently recover, as it were from death's cold embrace; they have recovered after having been confined to their beds for years!

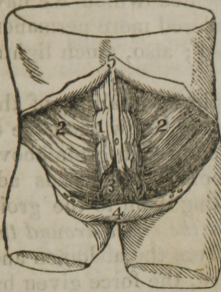
CONSTRUCTION OF BANDAGES FOR PROLAPSUS UTERI.

In the construction of a suitable bandage for the relief and cure of falling of the womb, or in other words to lift the superincumbent weight off of that organ and support the relaxed parts, we have only to bear in mind the existing difficulties under which the patient is laboring, to have the construction of an apparatus clearly indicated that is to an anatomist: but, even those professing to possess such knowledge, have erred in the construction of such an apparatus, and yet with this glaring fact before us, we every day are presented with some fanciful instrument, constructed by some daring pretender, who has the assurance to tamper with the health and life of his fellow creatures, and suffer himself to be thus prompted by an avaricious motive alone. It is by such imposition that the afflicted are deceived in the use of proper restorative means, and consequently condemn their use. Professor Hamilton, of Edinburgh, says he has in all stages of *procedentia uteri*, (*falling of the womb*) found a properly constructed bandage to give relief, and we have always found it sufficient to give relief to all distressing sensations when properly fitted, and in many cases the patient is enabled to throw it aside, its use not being required any longer.

We here introduce an engraving of the muscles forming the front walls of the abdomen, in order to enable the reader to comprehend

the operation of Dr. Knight's Spring Bandage for Females, which we believe to be the most applicable to give relief in cases of the falling of the womb.

No. 1 represents two straight muscles rising from No. 4, the PUBIS, (or bone that crosses the lower front of the abdomen,) and ascends to the STERNUM No. 5, (or breast bone)—ligamentous bands cross these muscles, and thus motion is confined to a part or the whole. No. 3 represents two pyramidal shaped muscles rising from No. 4, in front of the two straight muscles just described, which increases the thickness and strength of those muscles at this particular part of the abdomen, sufficient to resist the force of a pad applied directly across them. To obviate this difficulty, Dr. Knight uses two



pads to make pressure by their lower edge on each side of those muscles, (on the oblique muscles, No. 2) which form the sides of the abdomen. The fibres of the latter muscles running in an oblique direction, and being much thinner than those in front, yield most readily to two pads, and the bowels sustained without giving pain, and thus the superincumbent weight taken off of the womb most effectually; consequently, a cushion attached to a cross strap, to make pressure between the limbs, is sufficient to accomplish the desired effect in all cases of falling of the womb. There has lately been a decided improvement made by Doctor A. Wright, of this city, a patron of this Institute, in the construction of the cross strap, by the introduction of an elastic steel spring, of peculiar form, upon which the cushion is placed and rendered more steady in its position when applied, also, the straps by which it is attached to the other part of the apparatus, are prevented from chafing the patient, and the whole rendered perfectly elastic, yielding readily to the contortions of the body, at the same time, maintains an equal force upon the perineum. Patients that complained of the inconvenience and annoyance consequent upon the use of the old cross strap, wear this with comparative comfort, and readily submit to the use of it.

Thus it will be observed, that by the combination of Dr. Wright's strap and Dr. Knight's two pads, a most important improvement is made in the apparatus for the restoration of patients laboring under the falling of the womb. The pain consequent upon the use of a large single pad pressing directly across those muscles in front of the abdomen, and which resist most powerfully any pressure made against them, is obviated by pressure being applied on each side of them in the inguinal regions, where it is much more effectual than pressure made in front to support the bowels, as the support is applied more directly under the pendant part of the abdomen, and is readily observed by application of the hands to the groins to lift the abdomen. This part of the apparatus has in many instances afforded most decided relief without the use of the cross strap.

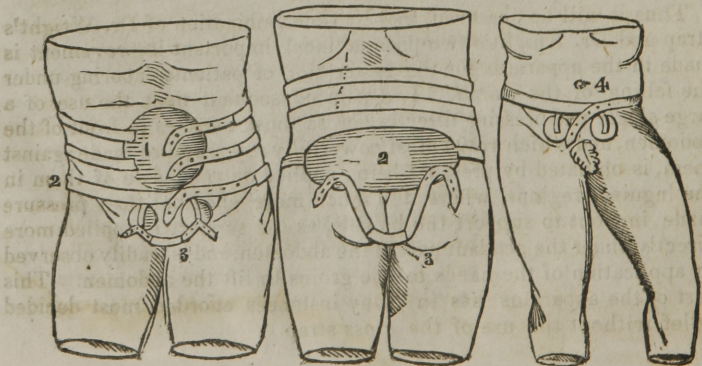
DESCRIPTION OF THE FOLLOWING ENGRAVINGS.

No. 1, is an UMBILICAL TRUSS applied: this instrument is most frequently required by corpulent persons and infants, they being most liable to Umbilical Hernia. We have descriptions of similar instruments having been used in the earliest ages of the profession. Two springs to encircle the body are here represented which we have found to be an improvement as the pad is rendered more permanent when applied, than when one spring is used; also, much lighter springs can be used.

No. 2 is Dr. Knight's SPRING BENDAGE applied for falling of the womb. The spring is seen to pass around the hip below the edge of that bone and the lower edge of the pads, placed in each groin above the bone that crosses the lower part of the abdomen: these pads admit of a lateral motion for convenience in adapting them to the groin previous to fastening the strap; (*that completes the circle around the body,*) it will be observed the spring sets out from the abdomen and is drawn in by the strap; and when thus applied, the force given by the instrument is upward and backward, having a tendency to restore the bowels to their natural position; supposing them to be bearing upon the lower part of the abdomen. No. 3 is the front part of the cross strap which passes between the limbs and is buttoned upon springs that pass over the backs of the pads; the second figure, No. 2, represents the back pad and the other end of the cross strap fastened—by shortening these straps any degree of force is given to the perineum or floor of the abdomen by means of a properly constructed cushion.

Above the back pad, is seen the two springs of the Umbilical Truss, in their proper position.

No. 4 is Dr. Knight's Double Inguinal Truss; which answers also, for a femoral hernia, by lowering its position. It will be observed, that the spring is carried across the abdomen, which is for the purpose of giving a more uniform support to the walls of the abdomen, as in most cases of single rupture, a double truss of this kind ought to be used. It is obvious that if the intestines have descended upon the hernial parieties, they will affect both sides equally; yet, may protrude only on one side, from some fortuitous circumstance; leaving the other side liable to a protrusion.



The following letter illustrates the effects of Dr. Knight's instruments in curing persons whilst laboring at some of the most laborious trades.

This letter was presented for publication by a young gentleman about twenty-one years of age, who followed the laborious occupation of ship-joiner. He had been in the habit of lifting very heavy bodies, (having much muscular strength,) and by so doing, unfortunately became ruptured in both groins; and having been badly treated, the intestines protruded to such a degree that either of the sacks would have measured six inches in circumference; his back was much excoriated by the back pad of the truss he was then wearing, of which he complained, and said he was unable to continue its use, as such severe pressure was required, and even then did not keep up the bowels.

BALTIMORE, June 12, 1832.

Dr. J. KNIGHT,

DEAR SIR,—Being anxious that your invaluable truss should become more generally known, you will confer a favor by publishing this letter. I was ruptured in both groins by heavy lifting, and was advised to get one of the most approved kind of trusses, which I obtained, but was unable to wear one strong enough to keep up my bowels, as it gave me most excruciating pain, from the pad on the back and each pad in the groin; consequently my ruptures became very bad. Seeing your advertisement, I called and had one of your Trusses applied,* after which I felt quite comfortable, experiencing no pain whatever, either from the Truss or rupture. I went to work at my trade and labored as hard as ever I had before, and in six months' time from its first application, no appearance of a rupture could be seen! I continued its use for a few months longer, and have now thrown it aside, believing myself to be perfectly cured.

Yours respectfully,

HENRY DIGGS.

Many such letters could be produced if we felt disposed to publish a list of them; but deem it useless to publish a volume containing nothing but a repetition of cures and recommendations. Some may say, this truss is not recommended by talented men in the medical profession. In order to reverse this opinion, we will present some two or three; one is from that truly celebrated Surgeon, the late Philip S. Physic, M. D., Professor in the University of Pennsylvania, and who was celebrated for his candour in deciding on improvements in that branch of our profession. This gentleman said, when examining one of Dr. Knight's instruments and its application on a patient, "This is the most simply constructed and effectual instrument for this purpose that I have ever seen." This is the opinion of all the most celebrated Surgeons in the United States, to whom we refer the afflicted for advice.

The following is a note given to Dr. Thos. Thompson, from that pious and candid physician, the Rev. Samuel K. Jennings, M. D. Professor in Washington Medical College, Baltimore.

Having had occasion to apply Dr. James Knight's Truss, and found it quite pleasant and effectual, I am inclined to think very favorable of it; and to believe it will give general satisfaction to those who may find it necessary to try its effects.

SAMUEL K. JENNINGS.

The next is a recommendation from the Physicians and Surgeons of the Baltimore General Dispensary, given in March, 1831, which

* See engraving (last figure) No. 4, the kind of truss alluded to.

shows the instrument has had ample time to have been tested and abandoned long ere this, if it was useless; but the testimony of thousands prove it to be otherwise.

We would respectfully recommend to the attentive consideration of the Faculty, and of the public generally, the Truss recently invented by our enterprising fellow-citizen, Dr. James Knight. We know of no instrument constructed for a like purpose that promises equal advantages. It is exceedingly easy of application, and effectively adapts itself to the most varied muscular motion, preventing at the same time a recurrence of the protrusion. It appears to us to be decidedly superior to any form of Truss hitherto used.

JOHN B. McDOWELL, M. D.

WM. E. PIPER, M. D.

CALEB JONES, M. D.

Baltimore, March 10, 1831.

This truss is approved of by many of the most celebrated Surgeons both in America and Europe. A gentleman from Baltimore City, who was wearing one of these trusses, when in London, obtained the advice of Sir Astley Cooper, relative to an aneurism, under which he was laboring, and at the same time asked his opinion as to the Truss he was then wearing for hernia. This very celebrated Surgeon expressed himself in the following words: "Your truss portrays the ingenuity of your countrymen in its very simple and skillful combination, and I would advise you to wear it in preference to any other truss." These trusses have been presented for examination to most of the Professors of Surgery in the United States, and the afflicted are respectfully requested to ask the opinion of such, if they have the least doubt as to their superiority over others in point of surgical design.

ABDOMINAL COMPRESSOR.

This bandage has proved to be a most valuable means of affording relief to delicate females in a state of pregnancy; by the support it gives, they are enabled to take exercise, and by that means improve their general health. Many of these bandages have been worn through the last year, by those who, when in a similar condition, had been confined for months to their room, and by the wearing of this bandage, have been enabled to walk about with comparative comfort, to the last! also, many who labor under a weakened condition of the walls of the abdomen, when not in a state of pregnancy, but a condition to which both sexes as a subject--induced by various debilitating causes; have derived most decided benefit from wearing this bandage, by the relief it affords to pain in the side and back, lassitude, dyspepsia, costiveness, palpitation of the heart, &c. These difficulties most frequently arise from the want of suitable compression upon the bowels and stomach. Belts have been worn for the relief of those difficulties, called the Russian belt, but that belt is very objectionable, as the pressure made is in an unnatural direction, consequently, but little or no advantage has been derived from their use.

Much relief has been obtained from the wearing of the abdominal compressor in Sea-Sickness, which is supposed by good authority, to depend upon a general relaxation of the system, from an effect

produced upon the nervous system by the motions of the vessel; also, a similar effect produced by riding in coaches, &c.

Corpulency is also prevented by the use of this belt, especially the tendency to enlargement of the abdomen, which is in all cases proportionably more enlarged than any other part of the body, and which depends upon the walls of the abdomen, yielding most readily to the excessive deposite of fat, consequently, compression is the only remedy that affords actual relief; FIRST, by enabling the person to take exercise, and SECONDLY, by preventing ready distention and consequent deposite of fat.

SHOULDER BRACE.

This bandage has long been known to afford relief to persons laboring under a disposition to stoop forward and become 'round shouldered,' as it is commonly expressed, but the bandages that have been used for that purpose, have generally been exceptionable, as they give pressure upon important parts, and is a fault in the constructing of the bandage now in common use, consequently, we would caution persons from using bandages unless properly constructed; if so constructed, they are an invaluable bandage to persons laboring under weak chest, attended with pain and disposition to cough—by their use, the chest is expanded and a healthy condition of the lungs induced. This bandage as used in this institution, is an invaluable substitute for the corset; many young ladies have thrown aside the latter and use the improved Shoulder-brace; the result of which, is an improvement in their general health! clerks and those confined to a stooping posture, and thus subjected to pain in the chest, have found decided relief from their use. They are, also, of advantage to young Misses whilst attending to studies at school, as they are a complete substitute for the corset without producing the injurious effects of the latter.

THE ELASTIC SPINEAL GRADUATOR.

A bandage for the cure of distorted spine. This apparatus is so constructed as to support the weak parts of the spine and prevent the lateral curvature without affecting the natural movements of the body; differing from bandages in common use for that purpose; also, it is much more effectual in effecting a radical cure, as the muscles are not compressed by its use, they very soon recover their wonted tone and a balance of action is restored. This bandage is worn with very little inconvenience, and is unobservable on the patient; as it is worn under the clothing and is not cumbersome.

ELASTIC HEMORRHOIDAL BANDAGE.

This bandage as it is now modified, affords most decided relief to patients laboring under PILES, or PROLAPSUS ANI, a protrusion of the bowel, or more definitely a retroversion of the bowel at its lower extremity, a difficulty to which children are most subject.

The modification of this bandage has been such as to obviate all of the inconvenience experienced in the use of the bandage, de-

scribed by Gooch in 1799. It is permanent when applied, having no tendency to excoriate or chafe, and maintains an equal force by its elasticity; consequently is a most invaluable bandage for the cure of those diseases.

LACE STOCKING.

A most useful bandage for the relief of enlarged veins in the legs, technically called varix or varices of the veins, and in many instances, supercedes the necessity of an operation. Many have been much relieved from this difficulty by the use of this bandage, during the last year. Those preferring to have the roller bandage applied, can have it done daily at the Institute, and if desired, have the veins obliterated by an improved mode of treatment. Varicocele is also successfully treated in the same manner.

SUSPENSORY BANDAGES.

A most useful bandage to those whose occupation requires them to stand much, also, to those who ride on horseback, or are afflicted with Hydrocele, or Variocoele. These bandages are a complete preventive to the two diseases just stated, and many others, and ought to be worn much more generally than they are. Foreigners, many of whom, wear them for comfort, are but seldom if ever known to be afflicted with the two last stated diseases.

Many other Bandages are kept in addition to those described. Physicians and Surgeons are most respectfully invited to call and examine the several kinds of Bandages kept in this Institution, and any modification suggested to suit individual cases, will be attended to, instrument makers being employed for that purpose. By this means much time will be saved and perplexity avoided, as every attention necessary to the fitting of the patient will be given, and in accordance to the direction of their Surgeon, or the entire charge of the case will be taken by the Principal of the Institute. Separate apartments provided for Ladies.

Persons can obtain Trusses, Spring Bandages for Females, or Abdominal Compressors, by sending the measure of the hips, and if for a single Truss, by stating the side affected. If the instrument does not fit and is returned in good order, another will be furnished without extra charge.

Trusses should be covered with old calico or muslin, and changed frequently when worn; it will add much to the comfort of the wearer, and preserve the instrument.

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