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**AN IMPROVED FORM OF SUSPENSION IN THE
TREATMENT OF ATAXIA, ETC.**

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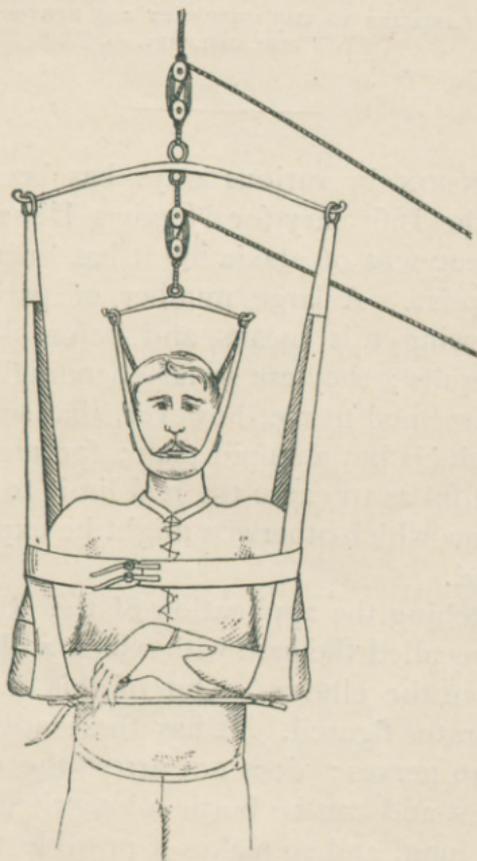
SUSPENSION in various ways has been so much used in the Infirmary for Nervous Diseases that the novel treatment of ataxia by it has created with us little surprise. A large number of patients are at present using this means, and before long I shall report results; they are so far encouraging.

It has seemed to me, however, that suspension by the armpits is but a stupid plan; for most people it is so painful as to cause the real limit to the time of suspension, which otherwise might be experimentally prolonged.

In watching the application of the Russian apparatus, I recalled the ease with which a child may be lifted from the elbows. Out of this thought came the apparatus figured. It has these advantages: It bruises no nerves; does not arrest the circulation; is painless, and can be borne a long time, if we need to use it long, and so makes it possible to learn the value of more prolonged suspension. It will be seen that a separate pulley and cord govern the amount of pull on the head. The lift is made from the

elbows, and then the head is drawn upon as may be required.

The apparatus is simply two leather slings for the elbows; a band confines the arms to the waist. (See illustration.) The relative comfort of this means of suspension is really remarkable.



By the use of this device we have been able to suspend a person over twenty minutes in perfect ease. To distribute the pressure upon the arms and

trunk the vertical straps are widened under each elbow to about four or five inches and reinforced with leather. Sweeping round from the front to the back upright is a wide band which comes against the outer aspect of the upper arm, yet leaving the point of the elbow free from contact. From one elbow leather to the other and securely riveted to each, both across the front and back, pass stout straps adjusted each by a buckle. Again, across the upper part of the chest another strap encircling the trunk gives additional support—not very essential, but well for nervous folk who fear they may fall.

The adjustment of the head was a vexatious problem, but we have solved that now to our satisfaction by one of two ways. By the second pulley, described above, or by a simple mechanism thus: To the ring of each cheek-piece is attached a stout cord which passes over a hook dependent from the large metal cross-bar and thence by a strap inserted in a buckle made fast to the rear elbow leather one on each side. These hooks are about fourteen inches apart. With either of these mechanisms we can raise a patient from the ground by his elbows, and then proceed to adjust the amount of pull needed for his head.

