Mackenzie, A. J. REPAIR OF LARGE PERIPHERAL NERVE GAPS. [Surgery, Gynecology, and Obstetrics, Oct., 1918.]

The author draws the following deductions from a limited number of cases: 1. Regeneration and recovery of function are promoted by the use of nerve flaps. 2. Both central and peripheral flaps can be used for such purposes. 3. A peripheral flap, by laying down a nerve path, may promote regeneration over a great gap. In one case quoted regeneration occurred over a gap ten and three quarter inches in length. 4. The approximation of nerves and their repair should be done in all cases with the least possible delay. This would apply as well to cases which are infected as to clean cases. 5. The arrest of trophic shock can be promoted by early closure of large gaps by flaps. 6. Unimpaired nerve tissue should always be utilized for the effective repair of damaged nerves. 7. In their repair, nerves can be successfully sequestered in muscular tissue so as to promote their own regeneration and that of the muscles in which they are imbedded. 8. The principle of sequestration can be utilized in proper cases so as to avoid infected zones in wounds and also scars and other obstacles to nerve repair.

Lehr, A. A PLASTER OF PARIS AND SPRING APPARATUS FOR PARALYSIS OF THE EXTERNAL POPLITEAL NERVE. [München. med. Wchnschr., 1917, 64, 1413.]

This appliance consists of plaster of paris leg and foot pieces, united by wire springs on the inner and outer sides. The springs are made of soft telegraph wire, 5 mm. thick, which is wound round a broomstick; three turns around the latter form the joint for each side of the ankle. When these turns have been made the wire is removed from the broomstick and tried against the ankle of a normal person. One end of the wire should be made to lie against the side of the middle of the foot; the other should run up the side of the leg and should be left irregular and not straightened out, so that it may hold better in the plaster. This soft wire is better than steel wire, because it can be manipulated with simple instruments. As a lining for the leg piece, a piece of tricot or stockingette is used. The foot being held in the correct position, a plaster of paris bandage is applied around it and another around the leg. The wire skeleton is then held in place, care being taken to keep the ankle position properly centered; more plaster of paris bandages are then applied. When the case has set the anterior part of the leg section and upper part of the foot section are cut away, and it is removed from the leg. The edges are smoothed, and the splint dried in the sun. The edges of the tricot can be pulled over the edge of the plaster and fixed with water-glass.