

and, consequently, a sympathetic contraction of the facial arteries, leading to the cessation of the hemorrhage.—*Lancet*, June 29, 1878.

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Application of the Poro-plastic Felt Jacket.

Mr. WILLIAM ADAMS, before the Surgical Section of the British Medical Association (*British Med. Journal*, Aug. 24, 1878), gave a practical demonstration of the mode of applying the poro-plastic felt jacket during suspension in cases of spinal disease and spinal curvature, in a manner similar to that recommended by Dr. Sayre in the application of the plaster-of-Paris jacket. Mr. Adams considered that the American system of treating spinal disease with angular curvature, as well as some cases of lateral curvature, by suspension, and the application during suspension of a plaster-of-Paris jacket, was the greatest advance recently made in the treatment of these affections. The system of extension by the head, as well as by the arms, is said to have been of ancient date. It was certainly practised in London by Mr. Stafford more than thirty years ago, and the apparatus for head extension is figured in his work on the spine. Mr. Adams had for more than twenty years practised extension by the arms, using for this purpose the trapeze bar, in cases of lateral curvature, and the effect of extension in straightening the spinal curvature was well known. English surgeons, however, always trusted to recumbency and gymnastics for retaining any advantage gained. The originality of the idea of retaining the advantage gained by suspension, by the application of a plaster-of-Paris bandage or jacket whilst the body is suspended, is undoubtedly of American origin, and it is to Dr. Sayre that English surgeons are indebted for the knowledge of this system of treatment. The substitution of the material known as poro-plastic felt, which has been used for some years both in America and in England, for fracture-splints, etc., for the plaster-of-Paris bandage or jacket, will, it is hoped, overcome many of the objections raised to the use of the plaster-of-Paris jacket. Experiments with the poro-plastic felt were made, at the suggestion of Mr. Adams, in the early part of the present year by Mr. Ernst, with the assistance of the inventor, Mr. Cocking. Mr. Ernst has now brought the poro-plastic felt jacket to a high degree of perfection, as shown by its application to several cases before the meeting. Mr. Fisher has, at the National Orthopaedic Hospital, applied a large number of these jackets, and considers them to be quite as efficient, and, in many respects, superior to the plaster-of-Paris jacket. These poro-plastic spinal jackets cannot be made out of the sheet felt, but must be manufactured on wooden blocks, and are kept in different sizes. After the proper measures have been taken, one of the jackets approximating to the required size is softened in an oven, or hot-air chamber, at a temperature of 180 deg. This occupies from three to five minutes, during which time the patient is being suspended, precisely in the same way as when Sayre's plaster-of-Paris jacket is applied, and a tightly-fitting gauze vest is drawn over the body. The body is then wrapped round with a sheet of cotton-wool, which forms a soft padding, and is useful as a non-conductor of heat. This was suggested by Dr. Yandell, of Kentucky. The softened jacket is then applied, and rapidly moulded to the trunk whilst the patient is suspended. It is then buckled in front, and a broad bandage is firmly and rapidly applied round the jacket from the top to the bottom; the patient still being suspended. In two minutes from the time of application, the jacket will be found to be cool and firmly set, and the process complete. It can be removed at pleasure for the purposes of sleep, washing, and gymnastic exercises, so useful in lateral curvature. It can be softened and reapplied, as improvement in the spinal curvature takes place; and the same jacket will last a year or more.