A HAND CORSET

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The problem of finding a suitable splint or prosthesis for the arthritic hand has lost nothing of its actuality. For this reason I have concentrated my attention upon improving the splints now generally in use, and have designed a support, to which I should like to give the name of "hand corset". In this I do not claim any originality, as I have made ample use of the work of others.

The hand corset consists of an ordinary glove of soft material, the fingers of which are supported by long springs of flexible coiled steel wire. These adjustable springs are inserted into special slits and cut to the required length. Figs 1 and 2 make the "construction" of the splint quite clear, and obviate a more elaborate description. This glove admits of an elastic fixation of the hand, fingers, and wrist, without putting any additional strain on the joints. If any of the springs cause pressure on a particular

joint, the trouble can be adjusted by a simple bending of the flexible "stay".

This hand corset has the following advantages among others:

- (a) it has an attractive appearance, which is undoubtedly of psychological value;
- (b) every glove can be made to measure, so as to fit any hand, however deformed;
- (c) it allows elastic fixation in the right position;
- (d) the strength of the springs may be altered at will, by using stronger or weaker springs, or by inserting one or more extra springs.

I usually adjust the springs in the position of function of the hand. Whether contracture positions can be prevented in this way is uncertain. Even if one succeeds in correcting the dorsoflexion contraction, that crippling malformation of the

Fig. 1.—The hand corset in use.

Fig. 2.—Diagram to show insertion of springs.

middle joints of the digits, it is not certain whether this correction will prove permanent.

In fitting the hand corset special care should be taken that the springs do not press on swollen or painful joints, this is made easy by the fact that the springs may be bent in all directions. For practical purposes it may be advisable to cut away the material of the fingertips, so that the glove becomes a kind of mitten, permitting the patient to use the hand with the sense of touch unimpaired.

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Gant prothétique

RÉSUMÉ

On décrit un gant prothétique pour la main arthritique. Il s'agit d'un gant ordinaire en toile souple dont les doigts son renforcés par des ressorts à boudin en fil d'acier, facilement ajustables. Ce gant permet le maintien souple de la main, des doigts et du poignet sans imposer une fatigue supplémentaire aux articulations.

Guante protético

SUMARIO

Se describe un guante protético para la mano artrítica. Se trata de un guante ordinario de tela flexible con dedos reforzados por resortes de acero, facilmente ajustables. Este guante permite el mantenimiento flexible de la mano, de los dedos y de la muñeca sin cansancio adicional de las articulaciones.