A NEW TYPE OF CERVICAL BRACE

CHARLES SPICER, M.D., AND CAPTAIN ALLAN E. BAYLESS, M.C., A.U.S.

Department of Neurosurgery, Birmingham Veterans Administration Hospital, Van Nuys, California

(Received for publication June 14, 1948)

A new modification of cervical bracing has been developed by our Neurosurgical Department in conjunction with technicians of the hospital Brace Shop. The cervical brace is a simplified modification of the Thomas cervical brace. It is extremely light and can be manufactured easily and economically.

The brace (Fig. 1) consists of a chin rest and occipital rest which are connected with single light metal strips to the chest and back pads. The chest and back pads are supported by single adjustable canvas straps which ride over each shoulder. The

* Published with permission of the Chief Medical Director, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Veterans Administration, who assumes no responsibility for the opinions expressed or conclusions drawn by the authors.

† The technicians to whom we are indebted are Mr. John C. Russey, Mr. John C. Green, and Mr. Eugene N. Capain.
chinese and occipital rests are connected by adjustable leather straps. Another modification is found in the chin rest, which is cut away over the symphysis of the mandible, thus eliminating an uncomfortable pressure point. The pressure of the chin rest is distributed along the inferior margin of the mandible.

The degree of traction pressure is regulated by the degree of tightness of the shoulder straps. The position of the adjustable leather straps allows for ease in adjustment.

The braces have been manufactured from surplus aluminum alloy and all parts are easily bent to fit the variations in individual anatomy. The chin and occipital rests as well as the chest and back pads may be cut from patterns for mass production and then bent to fit the individual requirements. The parts are simply riveted together and the rests and pads are lined with inexpensive felt. These may also be covered with soft leather as desired for a more finished product.

Such a brace is light but still offers adequate comfortable traction. Also due to its simple design the brace may be produced in large volume economically with a relatively short assembling time.

Approximately 200 such braces are at present in use by our service, and they have been found to be satisfactory for the treatment of the average patient requiring cervical bracing.