

Stump and Socket (II)*

BY GABRIEL ROSENKRANZ, M.D., New York

1. There are only two prostheses in the world: The comfortable and the one in the closet.
(Percy Hammond, quoted by Mark Sullivan in Our Times, III).
2. A knowledge of muscles is the beginning and the end in prosthetics (after Sir Arnold Keith).
3. There is no correct alignment that by-passes the mind.
4. The happily aligned leg will tell you so: "I ain't kicking."
5. Fitter (staring at the unyielding roll of flesh protruding over the medial rim of the socket):
"O! that this too too solid flesh would melt,
Thaw and resolve itself into a dew"
(Shakespeare, Hamlet I. 2)
6. When stump edema calls for relief:
"Never put off until tomorrow,
What should have been done
Early in the Seventies"
(George Ade, the Third and Last Call)
7. The 3-D prosthesis of the inexperienced spells: DISCOMFORT, DISAPPOINTMENT, DISCARD.
8. Knee.
"The human knee is a joint and not an entertainment."
9. Mechanical joints: Position is everything in life.
10. A healthy individual has a pair of legs, an amputee has two legs.
11. I recall a case of persistent stump edema in which a sudden crack in the wall of the constricting socket changed the whole picture immediately for the better. A "wise-crack" if there ever was one.
12. Amputee, calling up the man who sold him the "ultra-magic" prosthesis: "I am desperate. Please, tell me once more something good about the prosthesis."
13. Prof. Einstein's formula $E=MC^2$ has its application in prosthetics, too: The excellence (E) of a prosthesis is determined by the multitude (M) of its wearers and more so by the comfort (C^2) it affords.
14. Criticus: "Now what in the world good can this new device ever be that calls for so much watchfulness, understanding and devotion?"
Foresight: "Well, my friend, of what use is a newborn baby?"
15. A good prosthesis is a thing of joy and glory, and the less conspicuous its presence, the more sparkling its beauty.

*See also "Stump and Socket; a New Fifteen Points" in the Sept. 1953 issue of this *Journal* (page 6).