

## DISCUSSION

These case reports are presented to show that in selected cases a simple procedure can provide a most satisfactory repair. The authors agree wholeheartedly with Jenny (2), that in planning fracture treatments the aim is a functional leg. Treatment should not be aimed primarily at pretty radiograms with complicated screws and pins reflecting the brilliance of the surgeon. A perfect repair should mean that following treatment, the animal will have a functional leg and a normal or nearly normal gait.

The restricted angulation mentioned in cases 2 and 3 also occurs with the more complicated pinning techniques and tends to continue for longer periods. It is probably due to new bone formation very close to the joints themselves in this type of fracture.

## SUMMARY

Three case reports have been presented illustrating a simple procedure for the reduction and immobilization of distal epiphyseal fractures of the femur and tibia.

## RÉSUMÉ

Au moyen de trois cas, on démontre une méthode simple pour la réduction et l'immobilisation des fractures des extrémités épiphysaires du fémur et du tibia.

## REFERENCES

1. BRINKER, W. O. Proceedings twenty-sixth annual meeting. A.A.H.A. 204-207. 1959.
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3. JONAS, S. and JONAS, ALBERT M. J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc. 135: 476-480. 1959.
4. LAWSON, D. D. Vet. Rec. 70:38, 760-763. 1959.
5. SCHNELLE, G. B. Radiology in Small Animal Practice. 2nd ed., Evanston, Illinois: North American Veterinarian, Inc. 1950.

## ANNOTATION

## SCRAPIE AND KURU

SCRAPIE DISEASE in sheep, and kuru, an insidious central nervous disease of natives of New Guinea, have recently been compared (1) and found to have many remarkable similarities. Both are confined to certain populations and have a relatively low usual incidence. Both can be introduced into previously unaffected populations by mating or intermarriage although the carrier may be free of clinical signs for a long period of time after leaving an affected population. Furthermore, neither disease appears to fit the patterns expected of an infectious or toxic agent, nor of a deficiency. Both diseases are insidious and invariably fatal after a course of three to six months during which time ataxia and nervous signs predominate. The final similarity between scrapie and kuru lies in the fact that in both diseases the histological changes in the brain consist of vacuolation of neurons and gliosis and little more.

The author points out that these similarities do not establish a relationship but it is suggested that identification of the causal agent of scrapie may indicate more specific lines of investigation in kuru. — T. J. HULLAND.

## REFERENCE

1. HADLOW, W. J. Scrapie and Kuru, Letters, *Lancet*. Sept. 5, pp. 289-290. 1959.