The Orthopaedic Industry in America

The DePuy Manufacturing Company, recognized as "The First Commercial Orthopaedic Manufacturer of the United States," the company founded by Revra DePuy, began operations in 1895. The company was a result of the DePuy's efforts to improve on the existing splinting techniques. The company's founder, Revra DePuy, began delivering fiber splints to the market in 1895 and his modest company thrived. In 1905, he hired Justin Zimmer to be his first sales manager. After Revra DePuy died in 1921, his wife Winnifred DePuy took control of the company. Justin Zimmer, who by then was national sales manager, approached Mrs. DePuy with a revolutionary idea, to use metal splints instead of wood suggesting that metal splints could be bent to fit any fracture. Furthermore, Zimmer wanted to buy into the splints business and offer them to doctors as an alternative to the existing wooden splints. Mrs. DePuy was initially skeptical but eventually agreed to the proposal. The DePuy Manufacturing Company continued to grow and expand its product line, offering a variety of orthopaedic products, including metal splints, to doctors and hospitals across the United States. The company's growth was not without its challenges, however, as it faced competition from other orthopaedic manufacturers, including Smith & Nephew and Zimmer. Despite these challenges, the DePuy Manufacturing Company continued to innovate and expand its product line, becoming one of the leading orthopaedic manufacturers in the world.

Orthopaedic Industry and Genetic Therapies

As the demand for orthopaedic products continued to grow, so did the demand for genetic therapies. In 2006, the orthopaedic industry was estimated to be a twenty billion dollar business. Today, those men and women who founded the great orthopaedic companies would hardly recognize their own industry, as the orthopaedic industry has expanded to include the development of biologics, bone and soft tissue imaging devices, pharmaceuticals, and genetic therapies. The orthopaedic industry has grown to include the development of orthopaedic products surged and orthopaedic industry grew steadily, providing orthopaedic surgeons wanting to build a better mousetrap—Homer's Odyssey.