



FIG 29-9 Application of traction for maintaining equilibrium.

To attain equilibrium, the amount of forward force is adjusted by adding weight to or subtracting weight from the traction, or counter traction can be increased by elevating the foot of the bed to create a greater gravitational pull to the backward force.

The **all-or-none law**, characteristic of muscle contractibility, influences the complete relaxation. When muscles are stretched, muscle spasm ceases, which permits the realignment of the bone ends. The continuous maintenance of traction is important during this phase because releasing the traction allows the muscle's normal contracting ability to again cause a malpositioning of the bone ends.

The realignment of the fragments is a gradual process that is