

out the intervention of inflammation, and its office of throwing out fibrous matter to become organized between adjacent surfaces and thus effecting union between them denied, I may as well give one or two examples, out of many, to prove that an intimate union of naturally separated parts can take place without the intervention of the famous *adhesive inflammation*.

CASE.—A child affected with intervertebral softening, ends with distortion of the spinal column which draws the ribs with it. The arches of the ribs on the convex side of the curvature become widely separated from each other; while the arches of the ribs on the lesser curvature are approximated. The intervening *intercostal muscles* was by pressure which arrests nutrition and permits the absorption of the effete material to go on, and when the upper and lower edge of the adjoining ribs approach nearer and nearer, until at last the peritoneum of each has ceased to exist, the two ribs *touch*, unite, and in that place form a single, broad and flat rib. All this goes on without the slightest complaint of pain or inflammation, because it is a natural process. It is common enough to get such a skeleton if sought for; and many are to be seen in museums, where not only two but three ribs are united into a single one on the concave side of a distorted trunk.

Another example may be mentioned: A man had his foot badly crushed; it swelled enormously under the treatment, and sinuses formed in the course of some of the thecæ of the tendons. When consulted at a late period, I advised his surgeon to put a thick compress above and below the phalanges with a roller over all, with a view of diminishing the swelling by the absorbent effect of pressure, and to keep all wet with water. This was persevered in too long; the epidermis between the second and third toes was washed away, gradually admitting the *retamucosa* of each to come into immediate proximity. When I saw the case subsequently the two toes were united, as regards the soft parts, into one. All this occurred in the complete absence of inflammation, and the effusion of fibrin to become organized subsequently. In this way toes have united, little by little from simple *entertigo*, they being maintained in contact by pressure. In the case of burns it is different, for here fibrin in a thick coat is quickly thrown out, and if not peeled off will surely organize, and in the subsequent stage, long after having healed, the fibrin becoming absorbed, irremediable contractions gradually follow.

Tumors do not become adherent to the parietics of the abdomen, or viscera, as long as they are small or of recent growth; because they exert no great pressure on the opposite parts and are so mobile as not to stay long enough in contact with one point to become connected.