

to the severity and persistence of the inflammatory action, will be found peculiarly advantageous. These means, assisted with warm fomentations to the part, and followed by repeated doses of tartarized antimony and epsom salts, so as to nauseate the stomach and fully purge the bowels, these will generally remove the disease. Among other means, however, the most scrupulous attention must be given to keep the part in a state of perfect rest, being particular not to adventure too much motion for a time, even after the part seems perfectly restored to health. But if it should happen, notwithstanding these means, that the disease is determined to increase and spread to the other structures of the joint, causing effusion of serum, or the deposit of fibrine within or without the joint, so that pus shall be formed, and this being developed to a sufficient extent, a free exit should be secured for it as soon as it is plainly diagnosed to exist. From this period forward, without doubt, this inflammatory disease, now established in the hip-joint, will follow all the stages, will be liable to all the changes, and experience all the chances of recovery, which we have already explained may happen to the same part affected with inflammation of the synovial membrane; and now that all the structures of the joint are implicated in the disease, the treatment must strictly correspond with that proposed in extreme cases resulting from inflammation of the serous membrane, which has already been fully detailed, and which, therefore, it will be unnecessary for me again to repeat.

In chronic cases, however, this disease of the ligaments of the hip-joint not unfrequently endures with amazing pertinacity; in such cases, however, the inflammatory action has never advanced beyond the congested state of the vessels of the part, and some degree of effusion of serum. The fibrinous texture in these cases has become swelled and softened by the increased amount of serous fluid constantly surrounding it; and when the poison of gout has existed in the constitution, by the deposit of the urate of soda between the fibres of the ligament, it has often become greatly thickened and enlarged; this always produces stiffness and immobility of the limb, and is constantly attended with a dull heavy pain, particularly increased upon changes of the atmosphere. When this disease has continued for a very long time, especially in aged patients, when the pain and stiffness of the ligaments has rendered motion intensely painful or almost impracticable, then shall we often see a wasting of the head and neck of the thigh bone, dependent upon interstitial absorption of the bone. In such a