

ORTHOPAEDICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF DRS. FORBES AND TURNER.

FRACTURES AND JOINT INJURIES.

The Arthritides

In reviewing the work for a time past there has been some decided advance in this department. A decided move for the better in the nomenclature is being generally adopted which assists in the classification. Arthritis is adopted as a class name with proper subdivisions, and the term Rheumatism should be confined to that specific entity, Acute Rheumatic Fever. More especially in the chronic forms this should be noted, and give some meaning to that indefinite class, the chronic rheumatisms. Goldthwaite and Osgood by means of excellent radiography have shown many of these joints to have synovial membrane and bone involved in a very similar manner to those giving a definite history of some previous infection such as gonorrhoea, and suggest the name of "Infectious" to be given to this class in general. This would include, besides those following definite infections, as typhoid, pneumonococcus, gonococcus, etc., that type of arthritis showing chronic involvement of a joint or joints when, at times it is referred to some tonsillar or pharyngeal infection, at times none such, and yet giving a definite clinical course and the radiograph findings as above. If Infectious be not accepted, at least the term "arthritis chronica" might be adopted. This is invading a very general field and yet the interest in the classification is essential.

Among points of interest in some special regions one must mention some of those affecting the vertebral column. The recognition of typhoid spondylitis is of distinct value; and though not very common the recognition is important. McCrae of Baltimore, has given a good account of the same. The condition again emphasizes one of Dr. Osler's maxims, "examine the back." One of the assistants from Litten's Klinik in Berlin cites cases. In these in the early convalescence "back pain" was complained of, very severe in character. On examination definite spondylitis was noted. Radiographs showed actual destruction of tissue of the bodies of vertebrae and the intervertebral disc, causing deformity. The treatment consisted in supporting the column to relieve reflex spasm, to prevent deformity and at the same time pressure to be relieved as much as possible, as the condition is extremely painful. As far as could be judged by the radiograph the bone infection resembled an osteo-myelitis without any special extra-osseous abscess formation. Another form of spondylitis which gives rise to many "back symptoms" is the osteo-arthritis—the small osteo-