

In early cases of hip disease it is most unusual to see a bilateral or even a unilateral enlargement of the lymph glands, whereas in lumbar Pott's disease, and in tuberculous lesions adjacent to the lumbar region, such a unilateral enlargement is, the writer thinks, common, and a bilateral enlargement is certainly not uncommon in his experience. This statement is strengthened by a study of the lymphatic system. The lumbar region has a most profuse lymphatic supply. This is associated with the iliac glands and these, in their turn, are associated with the inguinal glands. On the other hand the hip joint seems to have a very limited number of lymphatics.

In corroboration of this clinical fact I beg to draw your attention to the following:—

A SMALL SERIES OF CASE REPORTS ILLUSTRATING THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE DIAGNOSIS BETWEEN TUBERCULOSIS OF THE LOWER VERTEBRÆ AND HIP DISEASE, AND SUGGESTING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE CONDITION OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM BEING A FACTOR IN THE DIAGNOSIS.

1.—B. L., age 6 years.

This little child was brought for examination on 21st September of the year 1906. The mother stated that the child had first been noticed to walk with a limp last spring. Later pain was felt in the right hip joint. One month ago the mother noticed the hip becoming flexed.

*Examination.*—The hip is flexed to almost a right angle, and the child complains of pain on the slightest movement of it. There is generalized muscular spasm. Measurements to demonstrate both real and apparent length of the limb, and the circumference of the thigh and calf show no difference between the two sides. This fact was considered significant, but, as there was so much muscular spasm on circumduction, the following opinion was written to Doctor T. P. Shaw, who had referred to the case for examination:—

“We are forced to the conclusion that there is either a Pott's disease of the lower lumbar vertebræ, with the resulting contraction of the psoas, or tubercular arthritis of the hip.”

On December 6th (3 months from the first examination) another examination was made.

The note of this examination says:—“The child was admitted for hip disease. The diagnosis was always in question, although there was slight muscular spasm on the right side. The measurements have always remained the same.” On this date it is mentioned that there was no scoliosis but there was slight psoas contraction of the right side, that