

In a similar manner, several cases of chronic necrosis were treated, the caustic being very freely used, destroying all foul undermined integument, and leaving, after the removal of the sloughs, large clean circular openings, more than an inch in diameter, and extending deeply down to the sequestrum, into contact with which the caustic, in stick and powder, was freely brought.

In this manner, two cases of necrosis of the fibula, very similar to each other, in which numerous openings led down to diseased bone, and where the patients were reduced to the lowest state by years of suffering, were perfectly cured within six months.

In a case of necrosis of the heel in a delicate lad, who was deformed by the effects of an old hip disease, a caustic perforation was made at each side of the heel, and the powder was brought into contact with the dead bone, until it was so removed that a catheter was passed quite through the heel, no inflammation or constitutional disturbance having been caused or excited.

I can speak with the utmost confidence of the application of this remedy in all such cases of caries affecting the superficial bones.

The caustic perforations may be multiplied in proportion to the extent of the disease, respect being paid to important nerves and vessels, and care being taken not to destroy sound structure, or periosteum beyond the limits of the diseased surface of the bone. Before I speak of the application of this remedy to the early arrest of the stage of joint disease, I may be permitted to allude to the important question as to the structure which is first attacked.

My own opinion accords with those authors who believe that in the great majority of cases the disease commences in the cancellous structure of the heads of the articulating bones. That there are rare cases where it begins in synovial membrane or cartilage, and mixed ones which, seen at a late period, may perplex diagnosis, I fully believe; but I consider that those instances where the *fons et origo mali* arises in the bone, preponderate so enormously that, as a rule of practice, it cannot be too strongly insisted upon. My own opportunities of obtaining pathological evidence have left me without a doubt on the subject, and the practice which I propose is based upon that conclusion.

In Sir B. Brodie's great work on the joints, he recognises the cancellous structure, and he describes the heads of the bones as distended, with a reddish medullary fluid, then softening of the tissue, and finally supuration—the matter either forcing through to the cavity of the joint, or reaching the surface at some position more or less remote; but whilst he has clearly recognised the cause, and graphically describes the disastrous