

Dr. J. C. WILSON said: The use of the term rheumatism is a stumbling block in the way of our knowledge of diseases of the joints. It should be restricted to the disease known as acute rheumatism, or better, as rheumatic fever. Such a restriction would clear the way for a better understanding of the medical arthropathies. There are various forms of joint diseases, very different in their clinical manifestations, which must be regarded as arthritis deformans. Many cases in their early course progress by attacks resembling those of subacute rheumatic fever. These cases suggest a resemblance to that disease which is only superficial, but lend support to the view that the disease may be of microbial origin.

Dr. FREDERICK C. SHATTUCK (Boston) said: I rise with some diffidence, having unfortunately been prevented from hearing Dr. Stewart, but venture to touch briefly on several points. In the first place, I cordially concur in the opinion which seems to be generally held that our ignorance with regard to this disease is lamentable. Pathologically and therapeutically alike it is one of the opprobria of medicine. Since the appearance of the observations of Smith and Lindsay, Dr. J. E. Goldthwaite, of Boston, has been carefully studying the fluid obtained from joints affected with arthritic deformans where such could be had. Thus far he has not confirmed Smith and Lindsay's observations, having found no organisms of any kind. Some eight years ago my attention was forcibly arrested by an article in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences* by Blake. He relates several cases which seem to conclusively show that suppuration, especially if concealed, may have the most intimate relation with arthritic disease, non-rheumatic, similar to arthritis deformans in some respects. One of these cases was that of a clergyman of middle age who became the subject of severe, intractable, advancing arthritic disease. Blake found a nasty condition of things beneath a tooth plate, careful attention to which was followed by complete recovery. Since then I have carefully sought for concealed suppuration in all cases of chronic and obstinate arthritis which have come under my observation. I have failed to find such save in one case—one of advanced and severe arthritis deformans and psoriasis. In this patient I found a neglected Riggs's disease. The teeth were thoroughly treated by a competent dentist, and a very sharp acute exacerbation of the arthritis promptly followed. There would seem to be an analogy between Blake's cases and those of gonorrhœal synovitis. I trust that any gentleman whose attention may have been called to this point will speak of it.

Dr. MOORHOUSE said: I believe that there is an intimate relationship between arthritis deformans and ordinary rheumatism, but that