

we have the formation of pus without the joint ; it may occur in numerous distinct abscesses, which after a time become general ; it may burrow down among the muscles, and pointing may be evacuated before the matter in the distended cavity of the joint has forced its way through the capsular ligament. This formation of matter without the joint may even occasionally occur without a simultaneous result happening within ; as such, it has been recognized as abscess of the areola tissue of the hip-joint. When this condition is readily understood, proper management will generally cure the disease, without the destruction of the joint.

In the treatment of acute inflammation of the ligaments of the hip-joint, we have particularly to consider, if the cause has a constitutional or a traumatic origin. If the complaint is evidently connected with and forms a feature of rheumatic disease, the peculiar constitutional treatment will be required. If the fever is intense, the pulse quick, full and bounding, the tongue furred, and the whole system morbidly excited, while the patient, is of a strong plethoric constitution, the free employment of blood-letting will be necessary, followed by the exhibition of colchicum and the application of warm fomentations to the diseased hip. The plan I have adopted with considerable success is, after the free abstraction of blood and use of active purgatives, to combine the sulphate and carbonate of magnesia with the vinegar of colchicum in some spearmint water, into a mixture, a dose of which is to be repeated every three or four hours, according to its effect upon the bowels. I also give alterative doses of calomel and opium night and morning ; these means will generally remove the intense pain, and by their action upon the kidneys and liver will commonly remove the poison from the system and cure the complaint within the joint. The free employment of citric acid has been of late strongly recommended in this disease, with a view to change the protinous compounds within the blood, and enable the process of nature more readily to remove the poison from the constitution.

When acute inflammation of the ligaments of the hip-joint is dependent upon an injury, such as a strain or violent twist, applied to the unyielding ligaments considerable constitutional excitement, and great pain may be produced, these symptoms are, however, often several days in being fully developed, it being a mark of ligamentous inflammation that it is slow of progress. In such a case, general blood-letting may be demanded ; but the employment of cupping or the application of leeches, repeated according