

To speak of a *dry joint* in these affections is an absurdity. The most insignificant irritation of the synovial lining, is attended with *copious secretion* of a fluid, with the peculiarities of synovia. The higher grades may not exhibit the same quantity of morbid secretion, but enough to give definite fluctuation. The liquid is of a more plastic nature, contains blood corpuscles, flakes of fibrin, fat globules and epithelium and becomes early contaminated by the organized elements of pus. To a certain extent the composition of the synovial fluid may still be recognized by the abundance of alkalis and the soapy feel.

In the highest grade of synovitis, the synovial lining, is as you are aware, converted into a pyogenic membrane, and presents the structure of granulations, as stated in the preceding section of our discourse. Under all these conditions, there is more or less morbid effusion.

The dryness of articulations cannot be denied, but it is noticed in conditions of a different character, and independent of inflammatory affections of the synovial lining. Thus, for instance, it complicates progressive deformative arthritis, which originates in the articular faces of the bones and though the synovial membrane may gradually be compromised, it is affected in such a manner as to destroy its character as a secreting structure.

In white swelling, the synovial membrane sometimes presents the peculiarity of dryness, but from anatomical changes of a pulpy character, not the result of direct inflammation.

In pure synovitis we never observe consecutive intumescence, infiltration, or hardening of the surrounding tissues, and never to such an extent as we find it in diseases of the periosteum, and the osseous structure, unless indeed the latter have become involved.

In the more active forms, there is intense pain within the whole joint, with consecutive febrile excitement; but reflex pains are moderate, and the spastic oscillations never very intense. In the lower grades of synovitis (*Hydrarthrosis*), these symptoms are entirely wanting, and the patient suffers scarcely any other inconvenience, than the effusion within the joint would naturally occasion.

*The affections of the periosteum and of the epiphyses*, are attended by a widely different group of symptoms. The beginning of these diseases is *very insidious*, and their development so slow as to require months to assume a noticeable form. But little pain attends the initiatory period. The whole trouble marks itself as *weakness* of the limb, dryness and *stiffness* of the joint, with inability to use the extremity in the morning. For a time the contours of the joint suffer no change; and if there be any fulness at all, it is more generally diffused, and extends beyond the