

fugal action of the pus. If, for instance, the pus escapes through the floor of the acetabulum, it spreads over the internal surface of the pelvic bones, by detaching the periosteum, and may eventually make its appearance below Poupart's ligament, or through the ischiatic notch, or between the gluteal muscles. Irrespective to the lesion of the hip joint itself, this condition alone would constitute a frightful disease, sure to terminate disastrously. Similar complications may occur with other joints and aggravate their respective diseases.

The indications of treatment diversify with the complications presenting. Generally speaking the same therapeutic rules come into play at this juncture which have been already detailed. *Rest and position*, exercise, even in these aggravated cases of joint disease, their beneficial influence, but the appliances should be portative so as to allow the patient the conditional enjoyment of open air perambulations. Of these the patient is greatly in need to sustain his constitutional standard. The appliances should, moreover, be such as would not be easily saturated and soiled by the discharges. James Startin's suggestion to impregnate the bandages and splints of felt, with an equal mixture of melted paraffine and stearine, for the double purpose of stiffening and rendering them watertight, is certainly deserving of attention.

I have not as yet employed this material, but it seems to me preferable to varnish coating heretofore used.

It is self-evident that the fixture of the joint is an essential desideratum to prevent the corroded surfaces of the epiphyses from grinding upon one another, and thereby give rise to pain and renewed irritation.

The fistulous openings should be maintained and their drainage kept free. This is, however, no easy task, because their sinuses are very circuitous, and dilatation by laminaria or compressed sponge, impracticable. The laying open of the tracts by the knife is mostly of but temporary assistance, incurring loss of blood which patients can scarcely bear. The employment of potassa *c. calce* (Kirkpatrick) to open direct communication between the articular cavity and the surface, deserves surgical consideration.

Abscesses frequently form in the circumference of joints. Those which are attended with great swelling, pain and fever, and indicate the efforts of nature to eliminate structural detritus, should be promptly and fully opened; those which appear more or less remote from the articulation and cause no local or general inconvenience (cold and consecutive abscess: abscessus congestionis) may be ignored as long as they do not raise alarm by their size and pressure upon important parts. Their contents readily undergo fatty degeneration, followed by gradual resorption. But if they