

oid type and death in a few days. He very justly observes, "that death from so trifling an accident, is not to be so much wondered at, when we daily see that an impression made upon a small part of the nervous system, may derange and ultimately destroy the functions of the whole animal machine." One of the cases which he relates, was occasioned by a slight fall, and the other came on gradually without any apparent cause, but they both terminated fatally; they are the only cases which he has ever met with in all his practice.

We now come to the THIRD CHAPTER, *on cases in which the Synovial Membrane has undergone a morbid change of structure.*

The author speaks of a morbid alteration of structure in the synovial membranes, which, in his opinion, is as peculiar to the joints alone, as the tubercles are to the lungs.

Those peculiar morbid changes which he has discovered in the structure of joints, seem to us to correspond fairly with the cancerous conditions of other parts, and with that affection of the bones which authors have called osteo-sarcoma or cancer of bones. He compares it with scirrhus of the breast, the medullary sarcoma, or fungus hematodes of the testicle, and numerous other diseases in which the natural structure of the affected organ is destroyed, and a new and different one is added in its place.

"The synovial membrane loses its natural organization, and becomes converted into a thick pulpy substance of a light brown & sometimes redish brown colour, intersected by white membranous lines. At last it involves all the contiguous parts, cartilages, bones, ligaments, &c. It begins by some stiffness and tumefaction without pain, and if one hand only be employed in the examination, it may be taken for a dropsy; but if one be placed on each side of the joint, the absence of fluid will be detected by the want of fluctuation. Pain is scarcely felt until abscesses begin to form and the cartilages ulcerate; then hectic fever comes on and carries off the patient if the limb be not removed by amputation. In general, one or two years will elapse before the disease reaches its most advanced stage."

In the *Treatment* of this complaint the author acknowledges