

Very recently the opinion appears to be gaining ground that we may have tabes dorsalis arise from peripheral causes. That, in fact, an ulcer in the foot may be the *fons et origo mali* of this formidable disease. The origin of the disease in such cases is explained by first a peripheral neuritis gradually extending along the course of the nerves until it reaches the posterior roots, and there a similar process gives rise to a subsequent sclerosis of the posterior columns.

SURGICAL DISEASES OF JOINTS.

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Report on Surgery, Ont. Med. Association.

In cases of very great distension with continued pain in the later stages of acute or subacute synovitis, Barwell recommends puncture and withdrawal of the fluid. This is accomplished with a sharp small tubular needle, having a rubber tube attached. Pressure is made by an elastic bandage around the knee so as to press out the fluid and prevent the entrance of air. The rubber tube may be filled with a solution of carbolic acid and held above the joint until the puncture is made. After the needle has entered the cavity containing the fluid, the tube may be lowered and its free open end placed in a carbolic solution. By this means tension is relieved, and consequently pain; means must afterwards be adopted to lessen inflammation such as cold, or in some cases heat, etc.

Suppurative synovitis may, after evacuation, be treated by complete rest and thorough drainage. The temperature falls or rises as the pus is retained or thoroughly washed out.

In hip-joint disease rectal examination has been employed in addition to other methods of diagnosis. The symptoms discovered by a rectal examination are pain on pressure upon the os-innomatum behind the acetabulum—enlargement of the intra-pelvic glands, thickening of the bones, depression, flexibility, mobility, or destruction of the post-cotyloidean surface, congestion of the soft parts pelvic abscess—one or other of these symptoms may be found in different stages of the disease.

With regard to treatment, Dr. Hutchinson deprecates the application of any retentive apparatus whatever. The patient wears a high heeled shoe on the sound limb, is provided with a pair of crutches and allowed to go about. He points out

“that immobility is secured by reflex contraction of the peri-articular muscles, aided by intracapsular effusion and the voluntary effort to keep the joint at rest on account of the pain which motion produces.”

Splints of all kinds allow more or less mobility of the joint and interfere with freedom of the patient in moving about in order to obtain necessary exercise. There appears to be considerable difference of opinion as to the efficiency of all the various appliances and methods of treatment.

Reports of Societies.

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

(Reported for THE CANADA LANCET).

The annual meeting of the Michigan State Board of Health was held in Lansing, Mich., April 14, 1885. All the members were present. The president's address was the first order of business. He congratulated the Board on what it had achieved. He thought it would be well to continue holding sanitary conventions in different places in the State. He spoke of the probable advent of Asiatic cholera, and thought that it might tax the Board to its utmost. The Board had done all it could to prepare to resist the disease, but should be ready for further action. If the bill before the legislature becomes law, the powers of the Board will be increased. He advised police regulations in cities, to prevent unsanitary conditions; and said that health officers of cities, villages and townships, especially those recently appointed to that office, should be instructed in regard to their duties.

The Secretary read a report of the work of the office during the past quarter. Ten thousand copies of the document on the restriction and prevention of contagious diseases were distributed. The Secretary also stated that the outbreak of smallpox at South Boardman had been suppressed.

At the last meeting of the Board, the subject of proposed legislation relative to diseased animals, and also relative to a standard for milk, had been referred to a committee, and bills relating to those subjects had been introduced into the House of Representatives.

The Secretary reported that there had been considerable effort to get the legislature to lower the