

functions of the part—a knowledge, not the mere cram of a tyro—but a permanent and abiding impression of careful dissection, and inductive study. It must be the thorough conviction of every practical Surgeon, that from our just notions of the anatomy and physiology of the part, shall we draw our true impressions of its pathology; these will give a wonderful simplicity and ease of comprehension to our subject, that would otherwise certainly deceive and confound us. If then such knowledge is indispensable in practice, be assured that the consideration of the different structures, which enter into the composition of the hip-joint, should precede our reflections of its diseases; for from their nature and character, will be deduced the variety of symptoms, that as beacons must guide our judgment to a just conclusion.

ANATOMY OF THE HIP-JOINT.

The hip-joint is the most marked instance of the ball and socket-joint in the body—it possesses the greatest amount of motion, and carries the heaviest weights of any such character of joints. The head of the bone is the point or axis, on which the movements of the body centre—it has a continual and abiding motion—we cannot turn the limb, or incline the body, without causing more or less rotation of the head of the bone in its socket. Should we bend the trunk or turn the limb, the motion is not in the spine, or in the leg, but actually in this joint. Occasionally it bears the whole weight of the body, and not unfrequently a heavy load besides. During progression the load is continually transferred from one joint to the other—nay even should we turn in bed, the least movement of the body influences this joint, and although it often bears the whole weight of the body, it moves in all possible directions, with an ease and facility most wonderful. The knee-joint also, undoubtedly bears the whole weight of the body, but its movements are more confined, having but the action of the simple hinge, while that of the hip-joint, allows the greatest possible amount of motion, with the most perfect security to the articulation. Should then the hip-joint be diseased or injured, we can at once account for the horrid pain, the least movement of the body causes the patient, and shall observe that he lies fixed and stationary in bed, abjuring the least change of position, or shake of his bed.

The Acetabulum or socket for the head of the thigh-bone is formed in the centre of the os innominatum, or largest bone of the pelvis. In early life the bone is divided into three distinct divisions, which are united by intermediate cartilage, and all combined as in a centre. These several divisions are called the ilium, ischium and pubis. But in the adult they are all united into one bone, and together constitute the deep and firm socket for the head of the thigh bone. During the greater part of youth these parts