

fibrous envelope of the joint, the cartilage covering the bone, the end of the bone itself—all become involved as the tubercular arthritis becomes developed. So the term tubercular arthritis is most applicable to the condition, being descriptive of the changes and of the state underlying the changes which come about in the affected joints.

Unfortunately we rarely get hold of these cases until the condition has become one of actual arthritis. The affection is limited in the beginning to the synovial membrane or to some one structure, but after the disease has lasted some little time it extends from the point first attacked, until eventually all the tissues are infected. And this has usually occurred before the patient is brought to the doctor for treatment.

Having said this much in a general way, I must pass on to particularize somewhat with reference to some of the features of tuberculous joint affections. And, in the first place, I want you to note two facts: (1) Joints which are subjected to the most motion, with pressure (from the weight of the body) are most frequently affected, viz.: the hip, the knee, and the ankle joints. (2) The disease progresses in proportion to the amount of functional activity required of the joint. The more the joint moves, the more stimulation is given to the morbid process, and the more rapidly does it progress. This fact indicates strongly the necessity for early treatment, with absolute rest.

While the disease is by no means limited to children, it is, nevertheless, particularly a disease of childhood or of young adult life. We have had a number of cases in the hospital recently in which the age has ranged from twenty to thirty years, but by far the larger proportion of cases occur in those of tender years; and I speak to-day of the disease as a disease of childhood. Speaking somewhat arbitrarily, children between the ages of five and fifteen or eighteen years are most prone to the disorder.

With reference to these cases, as with reference to tuberculous affections generally, I am always desirous of giving prominence to a good principle which is derived from a bad source (a patent medicine advertisement), and that is "*consumption is curable.*" Recent experience proves this beyond cavil, and we should all start with such an idea uppermost in our minds. Consumption is curable, especially when treatment is adopted sufficiently early in the course of the disease. In the early stages particularly can we expect proper therapeutic measures to be followed by recovery, and it is for this reason that early diagnosis is