

a total of 100. In cases treated by excision, the mortality was 40 per cent.

In this country, up till about the year 1890, excision of the hip was very commonly resorted to as a method of treatment. It had received an impetus through the work of Mr. Croft, of St. Thomas Hospital, and it was thought that the entire tuberculous tissues could be removed, and that early and healthy healing could be promptly secured. It is not necessary at this late date to deal very fully with that question. It may be safely stated that typical excision of the hip is now seldom or never performed in this country for hip disease.

The treatment universally adopted may be said to be conservative. The definite understanding of the term "hip disease" narrows greatly the limits of discussion. The principles of treatment established in the care of tuberculous disease elsewhere will apply, modified, it may be, by the consideration of the special tissues affected.

The treatment may be considered as constitutional and local. Drugs, doubtless, have an important place, though much less important than that which has in the past been assigned to them. Iron, cod liver oil, and other tissue builders hold an important place, but it is not necessary to speak of them here at length.

Diet is one of the most important factors to receive consideration. The advocacy of over-feeding, or "forced feeding," seems to have reached the height of folly in many instances. Not the food ingested, but the food digested indicates the amount of nourishment supplied. When forced feeding is adopted there is a great liability to impose a heavy burden upon the emunctory organs in getting rid of the useless surplus, which the digestive organs are not able to handle successfully. In one instance, a patient who had a tubercular knee and a tubercular focus in the lungs consulted the writer, and stated that he had for some time been taking twelve eggs per day, with the result that he was having marked symptoms of indigestion. Very few persons can succeed in making use of such an amount of food, whose habits of life are not exceedingly active. The diet should be nourishing, should be given at regular intervals, should be chosen in accordance with the likes or dislikes of the patient, should be the result of careful observation as to what foods are suited best in the particular case, and should be given within the limit of over-feeding. Perhaps one general statement can be successfully established in this connection, namely, that the use of fats up to the utmost limit possible of successful digestion is indicated. One of the chief advantages of the outdoor life is that the processes of digestion are greatly improved, and more food can therefore be assimilated.