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HIP DISEASE: ESPECIALLY A REVIEW OF ITS TREATMENT AND RESULTS.*

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The term "hip disease" has come to have a very definite signification as employed in the literature of surgery to-day. It signifies the pathological state resulting from invasion by the bacillus tuberculosis of the structures which enter into the formation of the hip-joint, and in this sense I shall employ the term.

The joint affection, in one sense, is nearly always secondary: i.e., the virus, introduced elsewhere and present in the blood, has developed at the joint because it found there a nidus well suited to its growth—but in a still more important sense is it secondary. König found that in 79 per cent. of cases it was demonstrated that there was some focus of tubercular disease elsewhere before its manifestation in the joint.

Primarily only the cancellous bone and the synovial structures are infected. There is a general consensus of opinion that in children the disease commonly starts in the bone, while in adults the synovial membrane is more frequently its primary location. As in all other cases, the ultimate results must depend greatly upon early and accurate diagnosis. If minor affections in the vicinity of the hip, or if even the less serious affections of the joint itself be considered hip disease,

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