

thus superadd continued irritation, whilst they are establishing insuperable disfigurement and impeding freedom of movement. Alike may all the varieties of joints be affected—from the simple arthrodia to the perfect anarthrosis: and these, even in their minutest examples in the body, (articulations of the internal ear-bones,) may succumb I believe to an invasion of this disease and loss of hearing ensue. On this latter point however I merely surmise, but analogical considerations support the probability. The causes of this disease were next discussed, and a case quoted from Dr. Todd's Croonian Lectures, in which it had affected all the joints of a poor girl twenty-five years of age. In speaking of the porcellaneous deposit so commonly seen in parts where the articular cartilage has been lost, it was remarked this was formerly thought to be due to a new deposit, but Professor Quekett finds that the extremities of the Haversian canals which became exposed were then filled up by osseous matter, and that subsequent friction merely established eburnation, much in the same way that the French-polisher plugs up with wax the pores and fissures of open-grained wood before he can hope by friction to establish a gloss upon it. The other morbid appearances were severally considered, and the difference of the appearances they presented from those arising from inflammation of joints pointed out; and it was also noticed that the changes very commonly exhibited examples of that symmetry of disease which had been especially commented on by Dr. Budd and Mr. Paget. The symptoms accompanying the affection were then detailed, and their analogy to those occurring in rheumatism, and at the same time their difference from them, pointed out. Here, as in other instances of disease which are the offspring of constitutional taint, we sometimes find that the onset of the symptoms may be ascribed to some violence which has been inflicted upon the articulation; and in such cases we have the same train too of morbid changes ensuing in the joint tissues as those already sketched out. It is in these examples that the surgeon has not unfrequently been scandalized for want of professional acumen in failing to detect and determine the exact nature and extent of the mischiefs; and after a time, when the patient leaves his bed and moves about, it is found that the lower limb, for example, is shortened, and the foot more or less everted, in consequence of a blow which has fallen upon the trochanter major, but which at the time produced no further violence than a contusion, though resulting in the establishment of chronic rheumatic arthritis of the hip. A fracture within or near the capsular ligament is presumed to have happened and been overlooked; and when death occurs an examination of the upper end of the femur shows the neck of the bone more or less absorbed, the head sunken and resting on the trochanter major, with irregular and exuberant bony growth around the supposed site of the cervical fracture; and in a word the specimen is said to prove the ignorance of the surgeon in not detecting the mischief, and the skill of nature in repairing it. Such false deductions however will not be drawn by those who are conversant with the morbid anatomy of chronic rheumatic arthritis. The case of Mr. Matthews, the comedian, was given at length, and the error described which Mr. Snow Harris had fallen into when he presented to the Medical Section of the British Association, in 1836, the upper part of the thigh-bone from this patient as an example of long union of an intracapsular fracture. The real bearings of the specimen had been pointed out to the satisfaction of Mr. Harris and the meeting, by Mr. Adams, of Dublin, and the instance proved to be one of the morbid character above mentioned. How fully conversant ought we to be with facts such as these; for, a person who had been for some time laboring under this affection