

general weakness, swelling, pain and fixation of the right knee, with several running sores about the joint.

Patient was always a delicate boy. When three years of age he had what was called an attack of "rheumatic fever" which was confined entirely to the right knee. This, which was in all probability a tibial abscess forming, was followed by disease of the tibia which lasted about eighteen months, during which time several pieces of bone escaped through openings in the leg. When five years of age, the left leg above the ankle became swollen and tender (no doubt another bone abscess). This was lanced, and finally a sequestrum was discharged.

At seven years of age abscesses formed over the great trochanter of the left femur and the right shoulder. These were allowed to rupture spontaneously, and healed without discharging any bone. Had a similar abscess on back a year and a half ago. Right knee was swollen and its motions limited ever since the attack of so-called rheumatism; and the flexion and fixation gradually increased, the pain being more acute at varying intervals. Three months before admission he had a feverish attack with gastric symptoms. At the same time the knee became very painful and swollen, and a sinus formed in the popliteal space, which discharged a large quantity of pus. A few days later two sinuses formed on the inside of the knee, which also discharged considerably.

On admission, patient was greatly emaciated; skin dry and harsh; temperature irregularly elevated. Diminished resonance with increased vocal fremitus over right pulmonary apex. The right knee was flexed at about a right angle, and a uniformly dense enlargement extended from three inches below the joint to about the same distance above it. The joint allowed free lateral and antero-posterior movements accompanied by grating sounds, shewing complete disorganization. A sinus in the popliteal space led down to necrosed bone. Owing to the extent of disease and the wretched general condition of the patient, excision was considered out of the question; amputation was therefore decided upon.

*Feb. 13th.*—Patient etherized and thigh amputated with anti-