



festations which follow, would more properly come under the heading of tuberculous. Another point of great importance is that concerning the development and multiplication of the bacillus. Koch has pointed out that the larger the number of microbes introduced by inoculation the more rapid will be the diffusion of tubercle, until it becomes general. He has also described the mode of multiplication of the microbe by fission and the formation of spores. Such, then, being assumed as true, it naturally follows that to delay the removal of an infected gland is to expose the individual to the risk of general tubercular infection. But we have positive evidence on this point: it is within the experience of most of us that phthisis in many instances can be traced to or connected with scrofulous glands of the neck, or some other tuberculous affection either of the bones or joints or of other tissues in which the local malady preceded the general diffusion. And I think we can record other facts in this connection in which the removal of diseased or enlarged glands or of tuberculous joints has been followed by general improvement in health. Such general improvement will follow after the healing of sinuses or ulceration, which is the sequence to the discharge of pus from a tubercular abscess.

But what a contrast is the part which is left to nature with that which has been early dealt with by the surgeon's knife. In the one instance, the individual, after being subjected to the risk of general tuberculosis, will recover with the part seamed and scarred in every direction with adherent and puckered cicatrices, and this probably after years of suffering; in the other, the disease is at once removed, the patient is to a certain degree protected from infection by the entire removal of the diseased tissue, and this at the expense of a simple and not hazardous operation, a week or ten days surgical treatment, and ultimately a scar, which is not more than a narrow, thin white line, and which in some instances is scarcely perceptible. This radical method of treatment is, to my mind, preferable to that adopted by some surgeons, as laying open the part and scraping all diseased tissue away. In cases where sinuses and ulcers remain, I should think the use of the spoon would be attended with good results, but even in these cases where there remains