

here remain; the blood globules may be dissolved and the basement membrane be highly coloured with the dissolved pematim that may occasionally give a tint to the fluid effused in the joint; or again the fluid forced into the dense basement membrane may so distend it, that some of the blood corpuscles shall pass through it by laceration of its fibres, and so become mixed with the serous fluid in the joint, and give it a red colour. I think this, however, but seldom happens, unless ulceration of the basement membrane has occurred, when the open mouths of the bloodvessels may bleed and it be mixed with the fluid serum. When the effused fluid become profuse in the hip-joint so as to distend the capsular ligament, although it cannot be felt to undulate, its swelling may be perceptible, through the muscles of the hip, and it may be distinguished both in the groin, and at the nates. As the disease proceeds, the parts in the immediate neighbourhood of the joint are now influenced in the congestive action; the capsular ligament, the perichondrium, and even the areola tissue, without the hip-joints, participates in the hypercæmic action. The patient complains of a sense of weariness and lassitude down the limb, even amounting to pain, especially if the neighbouring nerves feel its influence. The pain is now acute upon the movement of the joint, is increased on pressure, or when the patient attempts to walk, or even allows the limb to swing loose, so as to operate on the inflamed surfaces. The pain, however, is not of that excruciating character which exhausts the powers of the patient, as when matter is formed in the joint, as when it exhibits the more serious influence which that product of disease is sure to produce upon the constitution; for after rest the pain in a great degree subsides. As the inflammatory action increases in intensity, the least movement of the socket produces excruciating pain, and a spasmodic condition of all the muscles of the limb occur—an effort of nature to preserve perfect quiet. Should this state of things last for a considerable period, or the disease become chronic, a wasting of the glutei and other muscles of the hip, is the result of this imperfect action of the muscular fibres. The bold contour of the hip is lost, and the parts are shrunk and wasting. The same necessity for a state of absolute rest causes the patient, should he stand erect, to rest the whole weight of the body on the sound leg; nay, even so great is the desire to prevent the least pressure of the inflamed surfaces one upon the other, that a curved position of the spine is also maintained while lying in bed,—the trunk is inclined upon the thigh, and all the muscles connected with the joint are perfectly relaxed. As a consequence of this position, the pelvis is changed from the horizontal line, and inclines towards the affected hip. The spine also is twisted, and one shoulder is raised higher than the other, so that one imagines from their appearance the diseased thigh is shorter than the other, but upon due examination we find that the length