

Hot fomentations were applied, and a few days later a splint and bandage adjusted to keep the joint at rest. For the following two weeks the temperature gradually subsided to normal and then suddenly (on the forty-eighth day) again rose to 101°. The splint was forthwith removed, revealing a tender, fluctuating tumour all about the wrist joint, and manifesting no evidence of improvement in the local condition.

With a view to ascertaining the nature of the fluid within, a hydrodermic syringe was employed with the usual aseptic precautions and half a drachm of this pus removed. From this a series of cultures on broth, gelatine and agar was made, and the presence in each case of but one form of bacteria demonstrated, viz., that corresponding in size and form to the bacillus of enteric fever. Further investigations showed its extreme motility, that it produced no acid reaction on litmus agar, and that when grown in a broth medium containing calcium carbonate no gases were formed. There was further no sign of fermentation in a growth of the bacteria in 2% lactosed broth. We were thus enabled to exclude the presence of bacillus coli communis as a complicating factor.

Subsequent to this small aspiration gradual improvement ensued, though two weeks later there was still a small quantity of fluid left. Accordingly, for a second time, the hypodermic was introduced and a small amount of bloody pus withdrawn. A rabbit inoculated with this fluid manifested no ill effects. This, we believed, could be readily explained from the fact that as on a culture medium, so here the bacilli had grown old and hence innocuous to our animal.

One week later patient left the hospital, his wrist being almost completely restored to its normal condition.

We have recorded this case not only because of its interest in verifying the pyogenic properties of Eberth's bacillus, but also because in the fairly extensive literature at our command we were unable to discover any similar case in which a suppurative arthritis complicating typhoid fever was induced solely by the bacillus of that disease.