

should be carefully kept in view. Unless this is done, cases really depending on infection may be regarded as merely traumatic, and so the requisite treatment by evacuation and irrigation of the affected joint may be withheld until very serious mischief has taken place.

Dr. W. H. Brook recently described at the Clinical Society an epidemic which occurred in May, 1902, in Lincoln, and which was traced to infected milk. A large number of people were suddenly attacked with a very severe sore throat and edema of the fauces and uvula. The tonsils were coated in many cases with a drab-colored fur. The cervical glands were enlarged and tender, and there was in many instances a skin-rash resembling urticaria. One patient died of pyemia. High temperature was reduced in several cases by the administration of antistreptococcus serum.

One of these patients, a man aged 37, had, on about the tenth day of illness, intense pains in the knees, ankles, and elbows. The slightest movement produced agony. None of the joints contained fluid. There was no endocarditis. For several weeks the patient was unable to move any of his limbs. Now he can walk, but with great difficulty.

Similar joint symptoms were present in several other cases.

On the subject of infective arthritis, Mr. Clement Lucas's observations (1885) on the occurrence of infection of the joints as a complication of ophthalmia neonatorum formed a very important contribution. His views are fully recorded in his paper in the *Med. Chir. Trans.*, 1899, while other observers have amply confirmed him. Among the most instructive papers is that by Dr. Hawthorne, in the *British Medical Journal*, May, 1902.

In Dr. Hawthorne's case speedy and complete recovery resulted when the conjunctival discharge was removed by treatment, that is, when the supply of infective material was stopped, a result corresponding with the variation in the degree of arthritis mentioned in Dr. Kidd's case dependent on the condition of the bronchiectasis, and as to the amount and character of the discharge.

#### THE ACUTE ARTHRITIS OF INFANTS.

In 1874 Sir Thomas Smith described, under the title of "Acute Arthritis of Infants," a series of cases in which young children were attacked with an acute form of arthritis attended with early suppuration and disorganization of the joints, and often terminating fatally. All the patients were under a year old, and in several the affection was developed in the first week or two