

inflict injury, but as soon as it begins to cause irritation the muscles that control the joint at once spring into action in their effort to relieve and prevent the pain which is caused by the motion. If an anæsthetic is given in such a case the sensibility of the nerves is destroyed, and the muscles in consequence fail to control the movements of the joint, because they are no longer stimulated, and the physician is hereby deprived of the very symptom which would have been of vital importance to him had he made use of it intelligently. In many so-called "hysterical joints," and in these neurotic cases of which I speak, there may be a simulation of ankylosis and of muscular spasm, but careful observation will usually enable the physician to distinguish this from the true spasm of joint disease. By engaging the attention of the patient in other things and noticing the position of the joints meanwhile, motions will often be observed in joints supposed to be ankylosed. At times the patient may be induced to move the joint by placing the body in a different position from that in which the movement has usually been attempted, and then attempting to secure motion of some other joint, the movement of which will act on the joint under examination, the patient meanwhile having the attention concentrated on efforts to move the other joint, about which there is no question as to the diagnosis.

In cases of joint injury the location of the pain is to be borne in mind, and it may be a help toward excluding joint disease if the patient locates the pain in different places at different times, and at points other than those where the nerves supplying the affected joint should come to the surface. In spinal cases a tenderness along the whole length of the spinal column is almost proof in itself that the case is neurotic and not ostitic, the pain of bone inflammation being almost always confined to the distal extremities of the spinal nerves; or, if the pain is felt in the back, it is only in a limited area. Should the patient be awakened at night, especially just as he is dozing off to sleep, by sharp pains that cause a loud, sudden cry, it is almost certain that inflammation of bone is present. The general appearance of the patient will often aid greatly in eliminating bone inflammation. The expression of certain neurotics can hardly be described, but, their appearance once recognized, the picture is as typical as the expression of melancholia or mania.

In some neurotic cases there will be found a peculiar œdema of an extremity which, being associated with great