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DR. F. C. T. ARNOLDI ON CHRONIC RHEUMATISM.

It has often occurred to me in early practice, to observe that the term Rheumatism was frequently applied to a chronic painful affection of the extremities, and in several instances, to parts of the body, which really did not merit that mild term. I say mild term, because the inveteracy as well as severity of such cases appeared to me to exhibit characters which totally differed from what I conceived to be strictly speaking Rheumatism. Rheumatism in its active form is easily known, especially when of the articular character, so also is it easy to distinguish it when seated among the muscles; but when these parts, especially the latter, become affected with chronic severe pains, accompanied with great nervous irritability of mind, insomnia, and general derangement of the digestive functions, I then suspect that much as the case may resemble Chronic Rheumatism, it is more correctly to be referred to Neuralgia, or a spinal affection. In cases of Chronic Rheumatism it is not so easy to trace cause and effect; I mean to say, you cannot so easily perceive the pains to depend on a disordered condition of the digestive apparatus, whereas the cases I now particularly refer to, can on almost all occasions be referred to that cause. In Rheumatism, the barometric state of the atmosphere has almost invariably great influence in increasing or mitigating the pains, whereas in the cases I now refer to, such changes produce little or no influence; consequently, from these remarks it is easy to perceive that some, if not a great modification, becomes essential in the treatment; and for the better elucidation of that, I shall give a general sketch of four well marked cases which came under my care.

1. Mr. C. R. about thirty-five years of age, had been for several years a martyr to what was styled chronic rheumatism. He had been previously attended by every physician of note in this city, and by some of the first standing in London. His case had assumed such a malignant character as to be deemed hopeless: His friends despaired of his commercial prospects;—what rendered his case still more distressing, his legs were affected with phagedænic ulcerations, and these also took on the painful as well as angry character. At first my plan of treatment consisted