

spinous processes and lateral masses, the inflammation encroaching on the foramina of exit, and producing various painful neuralgias; the latter is Pott's disease or tubercular ostitis of the vertebræ, etc.

Many reasons exist for this confusion and multiplication of terms. Many diseases were so inaccurately described at first that the name suggested, could easily be improved upon, and later writers have done so with a view of simplifying matters, and have thus increased our list of synonyms; again, popular terms or names that could be easily understood by the laity have been introduced from time to time, until in some cases such terms have almost entirely superseded the more exact and scientific ones. Increased knowledge, such as the discovery of the tubercle bacillus, has caused us to classify some diseases as tubercular, just as we classify others as syphilitic, or malarial, and this list will probably be still further increased.

It is not my purpose to take any disease and weary you with a list of the different names it has gone by from the earliest times to date, but will simply give several examples.

In a recent work on Orthopedic Surgery, the same morbid process or disease, when it affects the spine, is known as Potts' disease; when affecting the hip or sacro-iliac joints, as hip-disease, or sacro-iliac disease; when affecting the knee, as tumor albus; and in the case of the other joints, simply as ankle-joint or tarsal disease, etc. Of course all or nearly all the other terms in common use are referred to, but it is under the above headings that the disease is described.

The hospital reports of the Roosevelt, New York; St. Luke's, Mt. Sinai; The Children's Hospital, Boston; The New York Orthopedic, and the Hospital for the Relief of the Ruptured and Crippled, show this same variety of expression. In them we read of hip-disease, hip-joint disease, tuberculosis of the hip, tuberculosis of the hip-joint, morbus coxæ, chronic disease of the hip-joint, and ostitis of the femur. In other words, in seven different reports we have seven different names for the same disease. Other examples could easily be cited.

This multiplication of terms leads to confusion and much difficulty in actually arriving at a true idea of the relative frequency of any one disease, unless we thoroughly appreciate these

facts; for, who can say that the disease was of the same nature, when on one page we read of tuberculosis, on the next of caries, and the next of ostitis of the tarsus?

Much of this variety and confusion of terms could easily be avoided.

This problem, although presenting difficulties, it seems to me, ought to be discussed. Its solution depends simply upon the profession agreeing upon certain terms to describe certain diseases, and then strictly adhering to them. More care in diagnosis will result; a synovitis or arthritis will not be classified as an ostitis; and all the different diseases of the knee, for instance, will not be included under the terms, white swelling, or knee disease.

Dr. Ketch offered his congratulations to the author for the novel and interesting subject upon which he had written. He thought, however, that it would be very difficult to find one name which would cover the various conditions of disease found at the hip-joint. He agreed with the author of the paper that such terms as "tumor albus," and similar expressions, should be discarded.

Dr. H. W. Berg thought pathology was at present too vague to admit of the use of a more exact nomenclature.

Dr. R. H. Sayre reminded the members that Dr. J. W. S. Gouley had devoted much time and labor in the preparation of an exhaustive work on medical nomenclature and classification of diseases. In it were mentioned terms which were very curious, although etymologically correct, and the profession would be slow to adopt such expressions. For instance, castration is spoken of as orchiectomy.

Dr. Judson was of the opinion that there was no likelihood of anyone being led astray by the present nomenclature, and other authors besides Dr. Gouley had expended much labor upon similar works, which were of doubtful utility.

Dr. Townsend, in closing, said that his paper had been misunderstood, for no question of pathology was involved. He had simply deprecated the use of so many terms to express one and the same condition.

TUBERCULOUS JOINT DISEASE TREATED WITH KOCH'S LYMPH.

Dr. N. M. Shaffer presented on behalf of Dr. T. Halsted Myers a report of the following cases: