

aspects, it will afford another proof in favour of those principles which we expressed in our Preliminary Discourse as the path in which we are to tread in the pursuit of our labours.

The FIRST CHAPTER is on *Inflammation of the Synovial Membrane of Joints*, commonly called *Hydarthrus*, or *Hydrops articuli*.

The author observes that this accident is seldom met with in children, but becomes less rare at the approach of the age of puberty, and is very frequent in adults. This is the reverse of what happens with respect to some other diseases, to which the joints are liable. It may take place as a symptom of a constitutional affection, where the system is labouring under gout, rheumatism, syphilis, mercury improperly exhibited, &c. &c. But in these cases it is not very severe; and though it occasions a preternatural secretion of synovia, yet it seldom terminates in the effusion of coagulable lymph or the thickening of the inflamed membrane. Sometimes it attacks several joints together or alternately, and even the *bursæ mucosæ*. In other cases, the disease is entirely local, being the effect of injury or of the application of cold. In these cases the disease is more violent, and when confined to one single joint, is sometimes followed by its total destruction. In itself it is a serious disease, but it is often confounded under the alarming name of white swelling, with other diseases, which are still more serious. Its attacks may be of different degrees of intensity; but for the most part, it has the form of a chronic or slow inflammation, which, while it impairs, does not altogether destroy the functions of the joint, and which, if not relieved in the first instance by an active and judicious treatment, may, like a chronic ophthalmia, continue for weeks or months, and with occasional recoveries and relapses, may even harass and torment the patient during several successive years.

The patient first experiences a pain which is particularly referred to one spot, and it comes at its height in the first week or ten days. The pain is sometimes considerable, at other times not. In the course of one or two days the joint swells from a collection of fluid in the cavity, and after some-