

symptoms of an injury to a nerve follow the trauma which produced it, while it may be months after the injury that manifestations of joint inflammation are marked enough to attract attention. While atrophy is a prominent and constant symptom in chronic inflammation of the joint, and makes its appearance usually before pain is at all pronounced in its character, yet it does not follow the onset of a marked traumatism so speedily as in the case of injury to a nerve.

Another of the most important factors in discriminating between a traumatic neurosis and a chronic inflammation of a joint is the subnormal temperature that is usually present in the former, just as it is in various diseases accompanied by marked depression of the vital forces. There seems to be a lowering in tone throughout the entire system, with a corresponding decrease in the body heat. In chronic inflammation of a joint, however, there is usually a slight increase in temperature, say to 99° F., and one of the best guides to the activity of the destructive process going on in the bone is found in the reading of the thermometer. The local temperature also is apt to be much depressed after an injury to the nerve supplying this part, and at times an extremity or a part of an extremity will show a lowering in the surface temperature of one or two degrees below that of its fellow, or of other parts of the body. On the contrary, if an inflamed joint be at all near the surface, the increase in its temperature is usually sufficient to be detected by the touch, should a surface thermometer not be at hand. I would draw attention here to the fact that we may have a lowering of surface temperature in an extremity which has been kept at rest for a long time, either in bed or in a splint, while a joint in this extremity, as the knee or ankle, for instance, shows a marked increase of heat, and this distinction must be kept in mind in making a diagnosis between these cases and those of local subnormal temperature due to nerve involvement.

One of the early, probably the very first, symptoms of an inflamed joint is involuntary spasm of the muscles controlling that joint, and, as the disease goes on, this spasm becomes more and more pronounced. One of the peculiarities of this spasm is that passive motion within a certain limited range may often be made with entire absence of pain or resistance, while efforts at voluntary motion on the part of a patient, or motion greater in extent than that which the severity of the inflammation permits, at once excites muscular spasm and gives the appearance of complete ankylosis. Nature does not oppose motion of a joint so long as that motion fails to