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Lectures on the Pathology and Treatment of Joint Diseases delivered at the McGill University, Montreal. By LOUIS BAUER, M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng. &c.

GENTLEMEN,—In compliance with your gratifying invitation, I propose to discuss some important points pertaining to articular diseases. This is possibly the only subject with which I may hope to engage so distinguished an audience.

The last ten years have been fruitful of material advancement both in the pathology and in the treatment of this class of affections, and their cultivation is still vigorously and diligently pursued. Notwithstanding all the achievements in that direction, the subject still remains in a state of transition, through the tenacity with which one portion of the profession adheres to the venerable teachings of the past, and the enthusiasm with which another portion declares itself in behalf of modern ideas. The time has certainly come when an understanding should be effected by means of unbiassed critical analysis and clinical experience. With this object I enter upon the present discourse. If, through inability, I should fail of realizing my design, I may at least hope to place the subject matter in such attractive relief as to insure your permanent interest and active participation in the settlement of the pending questions.

I.

CAUSATION OF JOINT DISEASE.—On this point, there is a decided clashing of views. By far the larger number of practitioners, the leading members of the profession among them, are of the opinion that most cases of this class are the result of constitutional disorder, of which the articular affection is but the localized symptom. To this theory the most prominent authors on surgery are committed, and it is promulgated from the professorial rostrum and at the bed-side. Time and usage have even rendered it popular with the laity. A few modern enquirers, compara-