

Of all the large joints, this one is most frequently the seat of tubercular disease, and only in the vertebræ is this affection found more commonly than in the knee.

It is spoken of as "white swelling," "strumous arthritis," "tumor albus," "scrofulous disease in the knee," "chronic, purulent, or fungous synovitis," and by other names.

The disease is much more common in children than in adults, and in them it more commonly is osseous in its origin, the epiphyses being the parts most frequently affected. In adults the greater proportion of cases begins in the synovial membrane.



FIG. 1.

The fact that both the femur and tibia grow chiefly at the ends which enter into the formation of the knee-joint is of considerable clinical importance. Ollier points out that long bones make fourteen-fifteenths of their entire growth at their epiphyseal areas. So much of the growth of the entire lower extremity occurring in the parts immediately contiguous to the knee-joint makes it a consideration of great moment that as little interference as possible shall be permitted with these growing parts. Senn,