

symptoms of the disease at its commencement, as manifested during its progress, and when it has produced those pathological effects, the nature of which are known, and admitted to be perfectly understood.

And we may remark, that the nature of the disease in its early stage, is not established from post-mortem examination, as the affection seldom proves fatal at that period; and instances rarely occur, when a patient labouring under spinal irritation is cut off by another disease, and we have an opportunity of examining the state of the spine; but the symptoms to which we have referred to in the previous section, appear sufficiently to indicate its character, and when the disease becomes still more advanced, as in the cases which now come under our consideration, the prominent affection of the spine, manifested by projection, anchylosis, and other concomitant symptoms of diseased vertebræ, remove all doubt of its pathology. It is therefore necessary, in elucidating this subject, to shew, that affections which have every characteristic of spinal irritation at their commencement and during their progress, terminate in decided and permanent disease of the spine; in distortion and anchylosis of the vertebræ. And if this fact be thus established, it affords conclusive evidence of the nature of this class of affections, as the pathology of the disease at this advanced stage appears satisfactorily determined by post-mortem examination.

In corroboration of this view of the subject, we shall refer to the following cases, of the many that have come under our observation, and are constantly to be met with in practice, commencing with every symptom of spinal irritation, and terminating in decided affections of the spine.

Case 11.—A young lady, Miss W., aged twenty-one years, about three years since fell into a delicate state of health; was weak, feeble, and unable to undergo exertion. She was frequently seized with severe headaches and giddiness, accompanied with loss of vision and recollection. In some of these attacks, she lay for hours in a state of deep stupor, like a person seized with apoplexy, totally insensible to everything around her, and incapable of being aroused by external stimuli. She was bled, leeches were applied to the temples, and cold applications to the head; and purgatives administered internally. On one of these occasions, the attack seemed so severe, that the temporal artery was opened, and a considerable quantity of blood abstracted. These remedies afforded only partial or temporary relief; the stupor diminished, but the weakness increased; she had less power over the movement of her limbs, and was chiefly confined to her room. Pains stretched across the chest and abdomen, and she had considerable difficulty in micturition, which soon amounted to total suppression, requiring for two months the constant use of the catheter. She now began to complain of pain and weakness of her back, which caused the atten-