

disease treated early on this sound principle, a portion of the mass will be taken up by the absorbents, indicated by the disproportionate quantity of pus to the large mass that has produced it.

It is not always an easy diagnosis to determine whether fluid about the *knee-joint* is within the cavity of the articulation or without it. As a rule the diagnosis is readily attained in these cases. You will tell me that when the fluid extends over the patella, the disease consists of abscess around the joint, and when the patella is raised, and is pushed up by fluid underneath it, the collection is within the articulation. That is all very true. But in many cases the fluid, although confined to the joint, is not sufficient in quantity to raise the patella, and therefore you cannot always depend on that particular evidence; and in the other case, in which, consequent on the greater tenacity and closer adhesion of the integuments to the fibrous tissue upon the patella, I have seen several examples of what I have called the horse shoe abscess around the knee—viz: when the matter has travelled round three sides of the patella without extending over it. Such cases are very deceptive. In forming your opinion—and a correct judgment is often indispensable to the recovery of your patient—you would, of course, place your greatest reliance on the local examination by the hand, and, this proving insufficient, weigh deliberately the evidence in favor of one or the other locality. If the fluid be in the joint, it may be a more serious affection, and the constitution takes cognizance of it as such. If external, probably the formation of abscess has been preceded by some local injury of a superficial kind, involving the cellular tissue, and in which the condition of the skin itself may add its testimony.

I now come to abscess on a larger scale. *Abdominal abscess* presents itself in the form of a large tumour, occupying the lower part of the abdominal walls, and commonly extending from the ilium towards the mesial line of the abdomen. The size is sometimes immense. It is firm, solid, and unyielding on pressure, but not very painful.

*Pelvic abscess* may occur independently of parturition, or during its progress. It is attended by local pain of a severe character, which is aggravated by digital examination. Tenderness on pressure strengthens the suspicion of pent-up matter.