

trochanter, driving the head of the bone deep into the socket, which not unfrequently gives rise to intense inflammatory action that ends in disease of the joint, and permanent lameness.

The round ligament, as it has been called, is rather triangular at its base in the cotyloid cavity, but becomes round towards its apex, when it is inserted into the depression in the head of the Femur. The position and character of this ligament, would appear to be intended, to prevent the removal of the head of the bone from its socket—that it does so, in many cases appears sufficiently evident—but in others, it is so very lax, thin and powerless, that it is impossible to imagine it can have any such influence—while in some cases it is entirely wanting.

Moreover all these parts are covered with great and powerful muscles, which are intended to move the joint; so voluminous are they in character, that the bones can scarcely be distinguished through them; and when from injury, effusion has taken place in the parts surrounding the joint, great obscurity as to the nature of the accident may occur, by the hiding of the several prominent points that used to serve as marks to guide our judgment. In cases of fracture of the neck of the thigh bone, the limb is more or less powerfully retracted by the action of these muscles; while in dislocation they spasmodically act, with a force that confines the bone against the pelvis with a powerful effort, and will not permit the least movement. Again, when inflammatory action shall have occurred within the joint, the excruciating pain compels the muscle to restrain the least movement of the joint, and holds the bone with a spasmodic grasp that plainly indicates the intensity of the patients suffering. In disease or injury of the hip-joint, a thorough knowledge of the position and action of these several muscles is indispensable, and must materially facilitate our just comprehension of the pathology and injuries of the part; will point out the action of those muscles, which, when the bone is displaced from the acetabulum, will be shortened and relaxed, and form no impediment to its return into the socket; while it will also indicate the condition of others, which having the distance between their origin and insertion greatly increased, will be constantly and powerfully thrown into a state of spasmodic action: these will retract or turn the bone into some abnormal position: facts of vast importance in the consideration of this subject, and if duly studied, will afford us data of inestimable service, towards forming a correct diagnosis of the nature of the accident or character of the disease:

We may plainly perceive from the nature of the hip-joint, that the movements are great and varied, that it can execute flexion, extension, abduction, adduction, circumduction, and rotation of the limb, movements performed by various sets of muscles which, arising from the pelvis, act upon the thigh either singularly