

given away. He mentions that the patient may suffer from the sensation of grating of the bones and makes the observation which has been confirmed so many times since, viz.: that pain may be relieved by supporting the sides of the foot, especially if this be accompanied by pressing upwards the heads of the middle metatarsal bones. Pollosson advanced the theory that is now accepted that the affection is due to a "certain laxity of the transverse metatarsal ligament" and recommended the application of pads to support the arch—a treatment universally accepted at the present day.

An Englishman, Roughton, wrote to the *Lancet* almost immediately after the publication of Pollosson's observations: "I think that there can be no doubt of the reality of the affection described under the name of Anterior Metatarsalgia by Doctor Auguste Pollosson of Lyons." Roughton further gave the history of several cases, drawing attention to the burning pain so often felt in the fore part of the sole of the foot being "sometimes so severe as to cause him (the patient) to remove his boot and grasp the sole of his foot in his hand," thus confirming Pollosson's observation as to its relief. He suggested the appearance of a convexity of the normally concave anterior arch and recommended for the strengthening of the same such exercises as raising the body weight on the toes. With the theory of such treatment, however, I cannot agree.

In 1892, Guthrie wrote to the *Lancet* about the same subject, calling the affection, however, after one of its symptoms "a form of painful toe." He himself was a martyr to the affection and consequently writes a vivid description of its symptoms as they affected him. He writes that suddenly while standing in a theatre he was seized by a "most severe shooting and burning pain in the fourth toe." He remarks "the boring of a hot iron into the flesh might have caused similar pain. It extended up the nerves of the outer side of the foot and leg into the sciatic with a numbing, sickening sensation" On taking off his boot he found that the last phalynx of the fourth toe was extended, while the head of the second was slightly displaced downwards. Mr. Guthrie, perhaps, did not fully realize that muscular spasm is a not uncommon symptom of anterior metatarsalgia. He, however, recommended that the condition should be treated by the use of proper boots and reported cures by such treatment.

Thirteen years after Morton's monograph, Goldthwait, in 1894, suggested that the term Anterior Metatarsalgia should be employed to include Morton's Disease and other similar conditions about the anterior arch.

Whitman, of New York, in 1898, concurred in this suggestion in a