

the neck of the bone as on a pulley, so that it must tend to draw the trochanter backwards. In dislocation backwards and upwards it can scarcely escape being torn, stretched to its utmost extent, as it must be. It will always act as a most powerful means of restraining the movement of the bone in this abnormal condition; so also in dislocation in the sacro-sciatic notch it must experience great extension, and be liable to a similar adverse condition: but should the head of the thigh-bone be placed in the thyreoid hole, or upon the crest of the pubis, the points of its origin and insertion will be so greatly approximated that the muscle will be completely relaxed.

In the above description I have endeavoured to indicate the normal and abnormal action of these several muscles which have a peculiar and direct action upon the coxo-femoral articulation. Doubtless there are other muscles which arise from the pelvis, and are inserted into the thigh-bone and leg, which have a general and secondary influence upon the articulation; but as their bearing does not seem directly to aid us in our diagnosis, a minute description may not be necessary. It may not, however, be unworthy particularly to note, that during inflammation of the hip-joint, we find all these muscles powerfully combined to steady and fix the articulation, preventing the least possible movement; for movement in this case would be attended with excruciating pain. As I have before remarked, during disease of the great ischiatic nerves, we have a similar state of rigid spasmodic action of all those muscles, producing an apparant immovability of the limb, which has been mistaken for disease of the hip-joint; and after this affection of the nerve has continued for a considerable period it has produced a shrinking of the muscular tissue from disuse, and a flattening of the prominence and contour of the hip, which has been exultingly appealed, to as a proof of disease of the joint.

DISEASES OF THE HIP-JOINT.

In the forgoing review of the nature and character of the hip-joint, it has been shown that the bones form a most perfect ball and socket joint; that they are clothed with a beautiful elastic cartilage; are covered and bound together with a firm fibrous ligament, while the whole joint is completely lined with a beautiful synovial membrane that constitutes it a shut sack; above all, it is surrounded and covered with numerous powerful muscles that perform the great and varied movements of which this joint is susceptible. We have so far seen all these several parts in a normal condition, working with ease, and almost without our being sensible of their extent or their character; but we must now contemplate them in an abnormal state, for we shall find that each of these varied tissues of the hip joint are liable to individual disease: it may commence plainly in one, but after a time implicate all the other structures of the joint, involving all, indiscriminate destruction; so also may the accidents to which it is liable evince