

ing between the dead and living parts. The first phalanx offered a good example of deep-seated paronychia in the advanced stage. The fibrous sheath of the tendon was very thick, the section white and firm, the lining membrane of a pink colour, and here and there bloodshot, with some deposits of flaky lymph. The flexor-profundus tendon was loose and soddened, and surrounded by pus. The periosteum separated from the bone by pus, and the bone dead. You will see here the contrast between this natural thin white sheath, with its smooth, pearly white lining membrane and glistening tendon, and the thick sheath of the whitlow finger with its rough, lymphic red inside, and its dull tendon smeared with pus.

Many of you will think this subject scarcely worth your attention; but you are wrong; for you will find deep-seated whitlow a very serious and painful disease, by which the use of the finger or hand may be destroyed, and which requires prompt treatment; and nothing but a thorough knowledge of its nature and progress will lead you to insist early on those measures, which, though apparently severe, will alone arrest its destructive progress. As you have just seen, deep-seated paronychia is an inflammation of the inside of the sheath of the flexor tendons of the fingers, rapidly running into suppuration. The symptoms are usually as follows: the affected finger becomes painful, the pain increasing to the greatest degree, so as to prevent sleep, and often to cause the patient to spend the night walking about his room in torture. This will be at first accompanied by little swelling and little redness, more especially in front, although the greatest suffering is complained of there. The finger will be kept bent, any attempt to straighten it increasing the pain, as does also pressure over the affected part. By keeping the finger flexed, the skin in front is relaxed, as well as the tendon, relieving the painful tension and the pressure of the tendon on the inside of the inflamed sheath. The back of the finger next becomes red, swollen, and shining, pitting on pressure. You might be misled by this, and think it was the place to make your incisions in search of matter, but it will be found that pressure on this part can be borne, whereas in front, where Beyer says this whitlow always occurs, it cannot; and when the finger is attempted to be straightened, the suffering is at once referred to the front. After the third or fourth day, this part will be found swollen and prominent, particularly on a side view, but no fluctuation is discernable. If no treatment is adopted, the disease will often proceed from the finger to the palm, which becomes red, swollen, and tender, the back of the hand particularly so, of a deep shining red, pitting on pressure, and fluctuation is soon apparent either over the knuckle of the affected finger, or in the web between the fingers. In the palm of the hand we often observe that the matter, after having made its way through a small opening in the skin, does not pierce through the cuticle, which in the laboring classes is excessively thick, but separates it extensively, and you have a considerable collection of pus, only covered by cuticle, before you come to the real abscess; as the palm becomes engaged other fingers get flexed, and cannot bear extension, and the pain shoots up the arm to the shoulder; in a woman, I knew it extend to the breast of the affected side. In most instances the inflammation with suppuration stops at the finger and palm, particularly when