

Demme, * has given most perfect contributions more or less accepted as leading authority.

In comparing the statement of that author, with the clinical character of the case, which is the subject of this contribution, there is a material disparity noticeable, which renders it both interesting and instructive.

Demme presents the clinical character of osteomyelitis so strong, transparent and conclusive, that it seems impossible to confound it with any other disease.

As the most prominent symptom, he mentions deep-seated, continuous and violent pain, which he alleges to be present at a time when other symptoms are imperceptible. This pain is readily increased by pressure upon the affected structure.

From the history of our case it will be seen that there was no unusual degree of pain at any period, and certainly no more than belonged to the disintegrating condition of the joint and integuments. This most essential symptom of osteomyelitis was almost totally absent.

The next symptom mentioned by the author referred to, is the peculiar sensation of the patient that the affected bone is infirm, frail and incapable of bearing the superincumbent weight, hence the entire suspension of locomotion.

Our patient is a remarkably precocious child and able to qualify her sensations with great accuracy, however, she never mentioned such a feeling at any time during her illness.

Next is it alleged, that at the very beginning of the disease, there is a diffuse and extensive swelling about the bone with contemporaneous superficial œdema, and a peculiar ashy paleness of the skin.

Although the Doctor took charge of the case but about a month after its commencement, that swelling was then moderate and circumscribed. The œdema was however present, the degree of either was certainly consistent with the diagnosis Dr. Bauer had formed.

Dr. Demme furthermore refers to large and diffuse abscess. The abscesses formed in this case were very small and proved to be direct outlets from deeper parts.

It is alleged that the affections of the adjacent joints, with the gradual detachment of the epiphyses, form a characteristic feature in osteomyelitis. There was no detachment of this kind in the present case.

In fine, osteomyelitis is considered inseparable from constitutional

* Archive of clinical Surgery, by Langenbeck, Billroth and Gurlet, Vol iii. Berlin, 1862.