

the morbid process commences in this way are the more amenable to treatment. Following the preliminary congestion, there is an increased formation of synovial fluid. Then the synovial membrane becomes thickened, and its edges or fringes soften until they present a gelatinous appearance.

These changes are the changes of inflammation. The exudate is inflammatory, and is dependent upon the presence of the tubercle bacillus in the tissues and the implantation of the infection in the joint structures. And when a case is brought to you, it will in all probability be in about the condition which I have just described, or in a condition which might be called a "first growth."

If the case progresses, we get a "second growth." Pus germs gain access to the tissues, and suppuration ensues. Suppuration within the joint is followed by erosion and ulceration of the cartilages—the cartilages softening as the result of the inflammatory process. Abscesses form within and without the joint, discharging in various directions, and gradually the bone becomes involved and the third stage of the disease has been reached.

Now in the treatment of these cases, I want to impress upon you strongly that there are two elements to be considered, two factors each of which require careful and systematic attention, viz.—(1) tuberculosis, (2) the local tissue changes going on in the affected joint. These factors are of course interrelated, but both must receive deliberate consideration. The tuberculous condition of the system requires particularly to be treated—it is the element towards which treatment should first be directed. The tendency is to treat the local condition only. This is bad. Do not forget the state of system behind the joint trouble. It would be better to wholly neglect local treatment than to wholly neglect general treatment.

Bear this point particularly in mind. We have a plan of treatment which sometimes cures, and in the majority of cases retards the progress of, tuberculosis. As yet there is no specific remedy, altho' we have the promise of such being found for us before very long. But by combining several therapeutic measures we certainly can retard. The principle of our plan of treatment is to enrich the blood as a tissue builder, and to increase the vitality of the tissues and stimulate their constructive powers. When dealing with splints and straps and local appliances, do not leave this principle out of account.

In attacking the disease tuberculosis, do as a commander would do