

This term, however, has a wide range, from that of a simple gingivitis, to an osteitis or osteo-myelitis, sometimes even to the extent of causing decay and destruction of a considerable portion of the alveolar process.

With pyogenic bacteria present in the mouth in such quantities as there must be when such a condition exists, being swallowed with every drop of saliva, and with every mouthful of food, and add to this the absorbing surface presented to the lymphatic and circulatory system—for conveyance of their toxic product, is it possible to conceive of a healthy body, which harbors such a hot-bed of disease?

The patients which we see in this connection are usually those with long-standing rheumatic conditions varying from months to thirty and more years, and presenting varying degrees of disability, with a large majority severely crippled and often almost complete invalids.

In these severe cases so much destruction has taken place that even though the cause be recognized, complete recovery could not be hoped for, but even in some very severe conditions a recognition of this cause and its treatment by proper dental means, and vaccine therapy—relieves pain so effectively, that orthopedic methods for correcting existing deformities may be conducted with very little distress to the patient, while previously they would have been unbearable.

Many such severe cases with this disease as a causative factor, might be reported, but their gain, while marked, and of great satisfaction to the patient, is as yet too far short of perfection to be conclusive. I, therefore, choose to report a moderately mild case from the rheumatic standpoint.

Patient referred by Dr. J. H., age 28, had an attack of rheumatism about three years ago, affecting back and shoulders, which troubled him for some months, but gradually subsided—had another attack in January, 1911, during which shoulders, hip, right knee, and feet involved. With this attack he also had quinsy, and on his doctor's advice, had the tonsils removed. Following this there was an improvement in his rheumatic condition, but it did not entirely clear up. When seen July, 1912, he was unable to work, due to the painful condition of the feet, and the right foot particularly was rigid, swollen and painful, and on attempting manipulation, adhesions could be heard giving away. His skin was particularly muddy in appearance.

On examination the gums were retracted, and pus could be seen oozing from every socket. The gums bled with the slightest pressure. An autogenous vaccine was prepared, dental treatment, local treatment for joints, with proper shoes to correct bad position of the feet, general instruction as to diet, etc.