

"When ever there is any, the slightest degree of inflammation of the hip-joint, whether it proceeds from an injury, or be a spontaneous and constitutional inflammation, there is an inclination of the pelvis on the head of the thigh bone, as represented above, and the inclination of the trunk from the line of the thigh bone, increases in proportion to the degree of inflammation. At last the disease continuing, the affected leg and the trunk will form an angle of 45° , and the head of the femur will be thus raised upon the lip of the acetabulum, and prepared to start out of the socket altogether," the ligaments being also inflamed permit dislocation, but do not cause it. "It is the inclination of the body and the leg which throws out the head of the bone from the socket; and owing to the softening and yielding of the ligaments, there is no check or limit to the distortion, and thus dislocation is *consequent* upon injury.

From the first to the last degree of this inclination, it is of the highest importance for you to notice it. In examining a limb which is supposed to be fractured or dislocated, you request the patient to lie upon his back, and putting the heels together, you find that one leg is shorter than the other. But before you allow yourself for a moment to think of dislocation or fracture, you look carefully to the position of the trunk; you take a piece of tape, you lay it across the pelvis, and fixing it with the thumbs upon the anterior and superior processes of the ossa ilii, you observe that the line made with the cord is oblique; you now compare the height to which the process of the ilium on the injured side is raised above what it ought to be if the pelvis were truly poised, and comparing this with the elevation of the heel, you find that there is no shortening of the leg."

Such is the substance of Mr. Bell's lectures which no one can read without regretting that such a celebrated surgeon should have allowed his feelings to have assumed too much ascendancy on his judgement. We do not, however, pretend to countenance what must be considered at least an omission on the part of Sir Astley, not to have consulted the experience of his predecessor and his contemporaries in the elucidation of some doubtful points, yet we are inclined to believe that he has been rather too harshly censured by his antagonists. On the whole we consider these controversies to have been of great service to the cause of science, as every champion has been compelled to give to the subject more attention,