

present at one or two points, but that general fluctuation, indicative of an uninterrupted distention of the whole cavity of the joint was gone.

Such, I believe to be the general course of these cases when supuration in the joint has once set in. The extent of the local affection and the constitutional symptoms will vary in different cases, and may be protracted for months or even years.

I have seen many cases, some of them most severe and protracted in such situations, that little medical aid could be given to them, further than directing a general course of treatment to be followed according to the means within the reach of the patients. In some of these the constitutional symptoms have been so alarming, that I have regretted that I had not an opportunity of watching them more closely, in order to resort to amputation at a favourable period; but I have now so often seen the most hopeless cases recover, that I would be slow indeed in resorting to such a step, and only to save the constitution from the effects of a lingering and exhausting disease, but the tendency of which was the resolution in a certain way, if the patient could be supported under the effects of it. The results of such cases in the country, with all the wants and inconveniences to which even the labouring classes are subject, is very different from that in even the best regulated Hospitals, and limbs will be saved in the former case that no one would attempt to do in the latter.

Such being nature's mode in remedying this accident, we can only arrive at a just conclusion as to the mode in which we can assist her by an inquiry into the character of the tissues and structures involved in disease, and the effects of inflammation on either or all of them.

Joints are shut sacks and their synovial membrane lines their capsules and the ends of the bones, which glide smoothly in immediate contact with each other. When this membrane becomes inflamed, we don't find the same tendency to adhesion, by the immediate effusion of lymph and its organization, as in serous membrane generally, and I am aware of no fact to show that such a process ever takes place. The effects of its inflammation seems more to resemble that of the mucous membranes of open cavities; its natural secretion becoming increased in quantity and changed in quality, and in a little time pus would seem to be secreted or effused from its whole surface, which ultimately becomes covered with granulations by which the natural character of the secreting surface is lost, and it is brought into such a state that its opposite points only require contact and rest to adhere, like the granulating surface of an open wound. I have had no opportunity of examining these joints while the process of cure was going on, or even the change