

This brief outline of a very important subject, into which time will not permit us to enter into further detail, may suffice to enable us definitely to diagnosticate tubercular joint lesions, of which we meet so many in general practice.

LABORATORY METHODS FOR THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER

By a "F.R.M.S." (Lond.)

Within the past few years, along with the advances of all branches of medical science, clinical laboratory work has grown and developed wonderfully. In the various lines of laboratory manipulations including microscopy, haematology, medical chemistry and bacteriology, continued and faithful work has brought forth many improvements in technique and simplified application and with this, definite and accurate results.

Whether a man confines himself to special lines or is engaged in general practice a certain amount of laboratory work is essential for the diagnosis of many diseases.

Wyeth in his oration before the American Medical Association nearly ten years ago, uses this argument: "It is equally important that there be called into requisition the invaluable and which laboratory research alone can give in determining an accurate diagnosis." Again in summing up he says: "Chemical analysis of the normal and abnormal secretions and excretions of the body, clinical microscopy and bacteriology should form a part of the educational requirement of every surgeon. I do not insist that the busy practitioner should attempt to master all the intricate processes of the laboratory, for this is possible only to one who devotes years of patient labor in the fascinating department of science, but he should possess that practical knowledge of the chemistry of the body in health and disease, and of clinical microscopy and bacteriology which any diligent student under a competent teacher and in a properly equipped laboratory, should be able to acquire in a three months course of study."