

of its existing cause. In some cases preeminently acute, the symptoms will be extremely rapid, will evince all the characters of intense inflammatory action, and may arrive at a fatal termination in the short space of a week or ten days; but in the generality of cases the progress of the disease will be much more tardy. It may come on with scarcely an indication of its approach, by the sudden appearance of swelling of the joint attended with acute pain caused by any active exertion; it may have as suddenly subsided, without any permanent ill effects, to be reexcited however upon the application of any other exciting cause, or the advent of any inflammatory condition of the constitution, which will predispose to such diseases.

In the knee the swelling and effusion, which so rapidly occurs, in inflammation of the synovial membrane, is easily recognized, and truly forms a most characteristic feature in the complaint, although equally present in this disease when occurring in the hip-joint, but from the greater depth of the cotyloid cavity, is far less easily recognized, but even here it may be observed upon due and attentive consideration. It must however be confessed that the inflammatory action in this disease will extend so rapidly to the other structures of the joint, as speedily to obscure this distinctive symptom, as in its progress it involves the other structures of the joint; while itself becomes a frequent accompaniment of other diseases, developed during their progress, and this is especially the case, in inflammation of the Capsular Ligaments of the joint, on which it is a pretty constant attendant.

It is to be observed that the rapidity with which the symptoms of this disease generally progress, are the most distinctive characteristic of inflammation of the synovial membrane—the acute pain and rapid swelling, serve to mark the distinction from chronic inflammation of the cartilage, and that variety of irritation which proceeds from deposition of tubercular matter in the several structures of the hip-joint; while the character of the pain, and the constitutional peculiarities, serve to distinguish it from inflammation of the Ligamentous textures.

*To be continued.*