A CASE OF MULTIPLE PEDUNCULATED EXOSTOSES.

(WITH HEREDITARY HISTORY.)

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THE inheritance of this case is proved by the following notes supplied to me by the father.

The grandparents do not appear to have been the victims of any special proclivity.

The father, now aged 35, had a bone growing on the inside of the left knee, when about 10 years old. This has disappeared. He has at

the present time a distinct outgrowth of bone on the head of the right tibia. His sister, aged 34, has a large formation of bone on the left shoulder blade, which first showed itself when she was 18 years of age. It is said to be painful at times and is said to be increasing in size. She always had weak ankles and wore irons in her boots when quite young. His brother, aged 32 (third child and second son), is quite free from bony overgrowth or outgrowth. His third brother (fourth child of the family), aged 30, has had eczema, but is free from any abnormal bone condition. His second sister (fifth child), aged 29, has a distinct exostosis on each tibia. His fourth brother (sixth child), aged 25, has a bony growth on his left shoulder blade.

The mother's family history does not demonstrate any special pathological drift. She had two children, the elder being the one portrayed in the photograph. The youngest child was born when the mother was suffering from rheumatic fever.

The father married a second time in 1883, one child has been the result, a girl, now aged 6. She has bony growths in several parts of her body.

A glance at the portrait of the boy, who was 12 years of age, will give a more rapid and useful idea of his condition than pages of letterpress. There was one bony growth on his left scapula, but none others beyond those shown in the photograph on the inner and outer aspect of the right humerus, on the lower border of the thorax, and at the upper and external aspect of the fibula. It may be desirable to notice that in the father's case the growths ceased with the time of

life when the growth of the body had reached its summit, that he has not suffered from any inconvenience from his condition, and he considers his general state of health as uniformly good.

Sir James Paget relates a case in his *Lectures on Surgical Pathology*, page 538, in which a boy aged 6 was in Bartholomew's Hospital. This boy had symmetrical tumours on the lower ends of his radii, on his humeri, his scapulae, his fifth and sixth ribs, his fibulae, and internal malleoli; the only deviation from symmetry being a tumour on the ulnar side of the first phalanx of his right forefinger. This swelling was removed by Mr. Lloyd, and was found to consist of an outgrowth of healthy-looking cancellous bone full of

medulla, and coated with a thin layer of compact tissue. The father, whom Sir James also saw, had as many, or even more, tumours than the son, but none of the man's direct ancestors or any other of his children had similar growths, but four cousins—one female and three male children—of his mother's sisters had as many of them as himself.

Three distinct characteristics stand out in the series of cases in the family of my patient:

- (1) Their singular hereditary persistency.
- (2) Their lack of symmetry.
- (3) They have not attacked the bones of the skull.

One cannot resist the intellectual pleasure of wondering when and how and why this "sport" was first started in a family. If we could answer this, then we should be able to unlock many a pathological mystery.

THE FRESH AIR FORTNIGHT SCHEME AT ABERDEEN.—

The fourth annual meeting of the subscribers to the children's fresh air fortnight was held recently in Aberdeen. The annual report indicated the highly gratifying results of this plan of giving the children of the poor a bath in sunshine and fresh air. During the year 1892, 510 children were sent into the country districts around the city, and in many cases the Committee extended the fortnight into a month, with most beneficial results. There cannot be the slightest doubt of the value of this scheme in lowering the mortality and diminishing disease amongst these poorer classes. And not only does the scheme minister to the development of a healthy body; it also touches the children on the sides of imagination and morality, developing "sweeter manners, kinder lives."