valuable specimens, although the sketches I have made for this paper are preparations of my own. Had I been able to expend more time and observation in examining these various pathological bones, in performing elaborate qualitative and quantitative chemical observations upon them, and in applying the microscope to more recent specimens, I might have claimed the privilege of being original. So far, I can only excuse myself by the plea that I possess several pathological bones which have urged me, as a psychologist, to comment upon them. I leave others to further the pathology of these interesting anomalous diseases of the osseous system—as interesting, perhaps, though not so astounding or as marvellous to the impatient psychologist as the recent theory of Dr. Van Giesen, of America, “that the nerve cell is like a tiny octopus with retractile and expansive arms.”

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A CASE OF SCISSORS LEGS.

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THE case described in the following note, and illustrated by photographs, came under my notice for the first time in April, 1898, and again in July, 1898. I think it worthy of publication as a remarkable example of the rare pathological condition described by Mr. Clement Lucas in 1870, and of which a few cases have since been recorded.

The patient, J. D., aged 16 years, an undersized, somewhat delicate-looking boy, gave a history of having been all right in every way until four years ago, when he states that he hurt his right hip while tobogganing. No medical man was consulted, however, nor did the boy give up his ordinary work on a farm; so that I regard his statement as unreliable.

When I last saw him his condition was as follows: The right lower limb was an inch and a quarter shorter than the left, and the foot everted to some extent, but I was unable to satisfy myself of the existence of any dislocation of the hip-joint. The power of flexion and extension was perfect, but the limb was constantly in a position of adduction, and could not be abducted by any amount of force. The left hip could be fully flexed and extended, but could be very slightly abducted; not at all when he stood up, and only to the extent of uncrossing the legs when he lay down. The gait was very remarkable, a rolling motion of the trunk from side to side, followed by the rapid movement of each limb alternately swinging from behind to a position in front of its fellow, the foot markedly everted, locomotion being thus rendered painful and very slow. There was no further morbid condition to be made out, no scars, nor other evidences of joint disease.

The photographs show the position of the limbs better than I can describe them; and while the shortening of the right limb is puzzling, owing to the unsatisfactory history, the strange position and gait appear to be due to loss of power

of abduction of both limbs, from whatever cause brought about.

I may add that the boy's condition was much worse on the second occasion than the first time I saw him, and the account given to me was that he was getting rapidly worse.

MEMORANDA:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL, THERAPEUTICAL, PATHOLOGICAL, Etc.

SCARLATINA IN AN INFANT.

Apropos of the case of “Measles in an Infant,” reported in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of October 1st, p. 987, I can quote the following case:

Mrs. F., aged 39, was at the end of her fifth pregnancy, when all her children but one took scarlatina. She nursed them herself. Mrs. F. had had scarlatina when a child.

When she felt the first symptoms of labour she went to Lyons, some two miles from her country place, to avoid the contagion for the child. She was delivered there of a fine girl on January 2nd, 1866. The second day the child had sore throat, with much fever, and Mrs. F. said to Professor X., her attendant, “I am afraid baby is going to take scarlatina.” This Professor X. would not admit, saying it was impossible, no case existing in the neighbourhood, and the baby not having been exposed to the contagion. However, the baby developed a strong eruption of scarlatina, and died on the third day.

This case seems to me interesting, for it shows, I believe, the possibility of an infectious disease traversing the mother's organism without apparently affecting it, and affecting the organism of the fœtus.

Geneva.

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