

differs in several respects; and it seems not impossible that more than one disorder has been comprehended in this designation. In fact there has been distinguished from it a chronic disease of the joints that, although it presents certain superficial resemblances, differs essentially in beginning of the synovial membrane rather than in the articular cartilage.

There are certain reasons for believing that deforming arthritis is, in some instances at least, a disease of nervous origin, despite the fact that neither gross nor minute lesions of the nervous system have as yet been discovered. Thus, atrophy takes place in the muscles related to the affected joints, and further, somewhat analogous lesions occur in connection with a number of diseases of the nervous system, such as tabes dorsalis, syringomyelia, neuritis. In further support of the view that so-called deforming arthritis may really comprehend several different conditions is the fact that while in general the disease is most obstinately unyielding to treatment, occasionally most brilliant therapeutic results are obtained, and in some cases these have been brought about by measures directed toward the spinal cord. Thus, P. W. Latham,¹ in discussing this subject, cites a number of cases reported by Dr. J. K. Mitchell in 1831, in which relief of arthritic symptoms supervening upon injury to the spinal cord was afforded by the application of from eight to sixteen cups and abstracting as many ounces of blood from the neighborhood of the cervical or lumbar enlargement, or if this failed by the application of blisters in the same situation. Latham himself reports two cases of deforming arthritis in which great relief was obtained by continued counter-irritation over the spine. Dr. Henry Tucker² has reported a case of deforming arthritis in which remarkably beneficial results were brought about by protracted treatment with superheated air, and Dr. M. G. Tull³ has recorded almost parallel results in a case treated by the application of cold to the spine. The patient was an unmarried woman, 20 years old, who presented painful swelling about the ankles, with difficulty in walking, and deformity of the wrist-joints, which had resisted varied treatment, including superheated air. Dr. Tull applied a long ice-bag to the spine, at first for two hours at a time, morning and evening, and subsequently for one hour twice daily. Guaiacol carbonate, a preparation of lithium and a solution of iodine were also administered. The improvement was quite remarkable, the patient regaining her power of locomotion and being practically restored to health. A similar result was obtained in the case of a negro, 40 years old, who had been confined to bed for twelve months with pain, redness and swelling of the knees, wrists and ankles.

In view of the hopelessness with which cases of deforming arthritis are ordinarily looked upon, it would seem that a fair trial should be given to treatment by

means of the application of counterirritants and other remedial measures to the spine. Success in this direction would contribute to the establishment of the nervous origin of at least some forms of the disorder in question, and it can be conceived that it might further lead to the employment of the same measures in the treatment of other diseases both of the joints and of the spinal cord.

COMBINED MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CLINICAL INSTRUCTION.

Although the didactic lecture must ever hold a distinct place in the medical curriculum, it has already been in considerable degree superseded by clinical instruction. While applied knowledge is what the student must ultimately have, it will be more useful and more productive to himself and to others for being based upon a sound comprehension and a clear perception of the underlying principles and from an appreciation of its relations to other subjects. In the evolution of medicine into its various subdivisions it has been found that there are certain disorders that fall at one time or another into the field of more than one of the many specialties that have resulted from the division of labor, and it may be that medicine has thereby lost in profundity what it has gained in extent. The process of dissection having gone so far, the time now seems ripe for some attempt at a more intimate integration of the various branches of medicine. This necessity seems already to have been appreciated, and it has been given expression to by the establishment within recent years of publications devoted to subjects that may be looked upon as occupying what has been designated the border-line between one and another of the departments of medicine. In line with the same thought, combined demonstration in two subjects, for instance medicine and surgery, has occasionally been undertaken.

There are a number of disorders that are better studied and the better treated for the conjoint observation of both a clinician and a surgeon, and the student will be the better instructed for having the affection presented to him in its entirety, from beginning to end. Besides, the relations of clinician and surgeon are thereby rendered more intimate and mutually more helpful; and each has increased his respect for the ability and the powers of the other. Among diseases of the character under consideration, which from the present point of view may be looked upon as partly medical and partly surgical, are abscesses or suppuration or gangrene or perforation complicating acute or chronic infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, typhoid fever, and appendicitis, the exanthemata, gastric ulcer, hydatid disease, abscess or tumor of the brain, thoracic, abdominal or intracranial aneurysm, accumulations in serous cavities, diseases of the gall-bladder and the urinary bladder, as well as the kidneys, malignant disease of the viscera, etc.

In a paper read before the Philadelphia County Med-

1. *Lancet*, April 6, 1901, 998. *JOUR. A. M. A.*, April 27, p. 1213.
 2. *Trans. Phila. Co. Med. Soc.*, Nov. 1899, xx, No. 8, p. 273.
 3. *Proc. Phila. Co. Med. Soc.*, 1901, xx, No. 3, p. 133.

ical Society by Dr. Robert G. LeConte, one of the surgeons to the Pennsylvania Hospital, he related a plan that he and his medical colleague, Dr. F. A. Packard, had carried out recently in a course of seven or eight lectures. The combined lecture occupied the greater part of two hours, a case or cases being exhibited; the etiology, pathology, symptomatology, diagnosis, prognosis, and the medical treatment being outlined by Dr. Packard. Then Dr. LeConte discussed the surgical treatment, which he at once proceeded to carry out before the class. If death resulted, the reasons for failure were pointed out, and the anatomic specimens were demonstrated. In this way both teacher and student obtained a complete clinical picture that was likely to remain fixed more permanently in the memory of each than the most lucid and interesting description. Such a method of teaching is, of course, not universally applicable. One difficulty resides in the fact that cases available for such conjoined treatment are not always to be had. Some objection might be raised further on account of the additional time required of each physician, but this is an individual matter and those whose desire it is to give the best instruction from both the student's and the teacher's view-point will not consider the sacrifice of time entirely uncompensated. From the pedagogic standpoint also the plan has everything to commend it, and so far as possible it should be amplified and its adoption encouraged.

RATES FOR THE ST. PAUL MEETING.

Attention is especially called to the report of the Committee on Transportation, concerning the coming meeting of the ASSOCIATION, printed in the last and this week's issue of THE JOURNAL. It will be seen that this year the ASSOCIATION has been treated in an unusually favorable manner by the various passenger associations, the Western having granted a rate of one fare and \$2 for the round trip for its entire territory, and the Trunk Lines and New England Passenger Associations a rate of one fare and a third. The rulings of the Central Passenger Association, as announced this week, have been changed and the more favorable rate of one fare plus \$2 granted. The time limits too are unusually favorable this year, extending to July 15, and so allowing ample time for the proposed excursion to the Yellowstone National Park immediately following the meeting. It is still hoped that concessions will be made by the Trunk Lines and by the New England Passenger Association.

WILD BEASTS IN INDIA.

A correspondent of the *Indian Medical Record* makes a vigorous protest against the Indian Forest Department's regulations, under which the extirpation of the homicidal wild beasts that infect that country is made impossible. He says the government forests and the game laws are practically responsible for the loss of thousands of human lives, and the ruin of cultivators, all for the benefit of a certain revenue and the sporting

proclivities of a privileged class. Shooting privileges are strictly restricted and the consequence is the wild beasts multiply. Owing to these laws he says some sections have become depopulated. The cultivator must not kill the animals that ravage his fields or endanger his own life and destroy his domestic animals, therefore, villages are abandoned and become overgrown with jungle, thus increasing the evils. There may be some reasons for forest preservation, but authorities who make and enforce laws that cost thousands of human lives needlessly, or for the sake of gratifying the sporting proclivities of a class, take upon themselves a serious responsibility. The few thousand lives annually taken by wild beasts may be a very small proportion of the two or three hundred million of India's population, but there is no excuse for their loss if it is in any way due as charged to special regulations made for the amusement of a privileged class. The Indian peasant needs protection against himself with his heathen zoophilism, and it is a pity that his civilized masters should add to his perils for the sake of their own recreation.

MENTAL CONTAGION.

Every little while some non-medical authority propagates a theory as to the contagion of mental diseases, and this is sure to be brought out if an asylum physician succumbs to such disorder. Association with minds diseased is then dilated upon and extensive generalizations are indulged in on very slim foundations. As a recent instance of this may be mentioned an editorial in a yellow journal *par excellence*, in an interior city, on the alleged mental failure of a prominent ex-asylum superintendent. The individual in question was over 80 years old and had suffered, we understand, from a shock of paralysis, two facts which would probably sufficiently account for such failures in memory, etc., as actually existed, but the chance was too good to be lost and the usual commonplaces had to be indulged in in regard to the perils of association with the mentally afflicted and a moral drawn on the mental effect of associations generally. About one person in about three hundred and fifty is insane enough to be counted as such, in the general population, and a rigid drawing of the line would probably increase this figure. It is extremely doubtful whether any much larger proportion than this could be found in those who are intimately associated with the insane, excluding, of course, relatives, and others who obviously share the same heredity and predisposition. There is such a thing as mental contagion; it is notoriously marked in hysterical cases, but there is very little evidence of any real transmission of serious mental disease, simply as such, to persons of healthy mental organization and not possessing any organic predisposition or heredity. The cause of insanity may be an infection, as is probably that of general paralysis or paresis which seems to be sometimes communicated from husband to wife, but the method here is not obscure and is purely physical. In the ordinary use of language we can not speak of insanity as contagious. These are commonplace facts, but the notion is occasionally in evidence even in medical journals and its correction is therefore not altogether amiss.