

When the inferior or maxillary branch is the seat of pain it affects the teeth and jaw and stops at the symphysis of the chin curiously enough. Now the specific for this branch is belladonna or atropine, both externally and internally, and all are benefited by warmth and gentle purgation, but we must look at the *font et origo* of this painful disease to cure it.

I have never found strychnine alone to do any good, as so strongly recommended by the doctor, for where there is pain and irritability it does a great deal of harm, especially in plethoric persons with head symptoms, and must be avoided. The cause of this disease may be from rheumatic or gout poison, then colchicum and Epsom salts are the remedies. If miasmatic; quinine and salicylates. If from poverty of blood, then you may give strychnine with your iron. But we must always be on the lookout for reflex symptoms, first described by Dr. Marshall Hall, for with intraocular neuralgia we may have disease of the brain and its coverings, the foramina out of which the nerves exude may consist of enlarged bone pressing on the delicate nervous structure, or a tumor may exist in the immediate neighborhood, or the neuralgia be inflamed, which is often the case in rheumatic persons, for this covering is of fibrous origin and very subject to its influence.

How common it is for the inframaxillary nerve to be upset by a decayed tooth or inflamed dental nerve, when the only remedy is extraction.

Sometimes we must look to the blood as a causation of disease—the nerve is crying out for rich, healthy blood, instead of the poor, watery stuff that is starving it to death.

We may expect many reflex symptoms in the female sex, for the manifestations of their nervous system are so astounding as to deceive the physician. Who shall fathom the profundity of hysteria or the protean forms of epilepsy and catalepsy? Often amongst women profuse and debilitating discharges are the cause of neuralgia, also from a sick stomach, relieved instantly by an emetic.

If Dr. Dana intended to describe all kinds of neuralgia under the name of *tic douloureux* he has fallen far short in the picture, for we do not find arsenic or phosphorus even noticed—very efficient drugs in their treatment. Also the magician's wand, the hypodermic needle, is not mentioned, and what doctor would be without it in the presence of neuralgia of any description?

Yours truly,

Picton, Ont.

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