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NOTES ON SOME AFFECTIONS OF THE BRAIN.*

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Among all the highways and by-ways of medical science, I know of none in which medicine, surgery, physiology and pathology are advancing hand in hand with a greater sense of mutual dependence than in those of cerebral localisation. I make localisation prominent at the beginning of this paper, because it is the standard about which we must rally in this department of medicine, if we ever wish to drive out empiricism and to take possession in the name of science.

The first great step in scientific localisation was the discovery of the centre of speech by Broca, some thirty years ago, in the third left frontal convolution.

I remind you of this, not only because of its historical importance, but because disturbance of this centre was a prominent symptom in the first two cases I wish to relate.

My first case shows how aphasia may, for a time at least, be the only definite symptom of an organic affection of the brain.

W. G., aged 38, first consulted me in March, 1893, complaining of headache and occasional nausea. He also had a macular rash and gave a history of syphilis dating back some fifteen years. I prescribed iodide of potash, which he took rather irregularly, but with considerable benefit. At the end

* Read before the Montreal Clinical Society, Dec. 9th, 1893.