

plies to cases in which cerebral symptoms are associated with inflammation of the lungs or pleura. The most satisfactory explanation of the occurrence of rheumatic delirium is that adopted by Dr. Fuller, viz: that it depends on the influence with the irritation of the sensorium resulting from the poisoned condition of the blood. But we know from recorded cases that rheumatic delirium does not always occur in instances where the rheumatic symptoms are best marked. Indeed, it has supervened in cases which appeared to be comparatively slight in their intensity. If, therefore, we admit the rheumatic poison to be the active cause of delirium, how is this discrepancy to be explained? In the following manner:—It seems a well-ascertained fact that the nervous tissue, both in the centres and in the peripheral extensions becomes more excitable and mobile in proportion as its power becomes weaker. The motor nerve is more readily thrown into action, though the impulse it communicates is weak and cannot be long sustained. The sensory nerve is alive to the least impression, and the brain is highly impressible, and hence we find that those persons are most liable to suffer from cerebral symptoms in the course of various disorders where the nervous system has been damaged by previous ill-health, habits of intemperance, or hereditary tendency to mania or other forms of insanity. We know how frequently delirium tremens shows itself when an intemperate man receives a severe injury or is deprived of his customary stimulants, and how frequently delirium follows comparatively slight injuries to persons whose nervous system is reduced by ill-health, or who suffer from unusual excitability. Dr. Trousseau relates a remarkable instance which may serve as an illustration. Now it is precisely persons who are exhausted or cachectic and feeble, or who have been long addicted to intemperate habits, or who have suffered from or inherit a tendency to insanity, who are most likely to be affected by delirium. It is not to be wondered at, says Dr. Fuller, that with a brain participating in the general mal-nutrition of the body, a heart weak, ill-nourished, ill-supplied with nervous stimulus, and hardly capable of maintaining a due circulation; and a blood long vitiated or impoverished, that a slight additional cause of irritation or depression may prove sufficient to distract the brain's equilibrium, and that an attack of delirium may supervene whenever, by the pressure of some fresh morbid matter, the nutrition of the nervous centres is still further interfered with. You thus perceive that the weakened condition of the nervous centres is to be regarded as a predisposing cause, and the altered and poisoned state of the blood as the proximate or exciting cause of rheumatic delirium; and we can readily admit that these condi-