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NOTES FROM THE CASE BOOK OF A GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

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EPILEPSY.

How little we know of this disease. Theories, we have many, but they do not help us to a cure. Of its pathology, we may be said to be profoundly ignorant. Persons who have been epileptics for years die from some inter-current disease, and on *post mortem*, the brain, spinal cord and nerves are found in a healthy condition. McLane Hamilton, in his article on Epilepsy, in Pepper's System of Medicine, says: "An epileptic attack is nothing more or less than a discharge of nervous energy from an over-excited, or what may be called a dynamo pregnant nerve centre or collection of nerves." That is simply a theory, and makes no impression on my mind of any therapeutic value. Hamilton says heredity plays a most important part; fifty per cent. of his cases had hereditary history. Osler, in his last edition, says it plays but a minor role; and that French physicians, with whom he has conversed on the subject, hold the same opinion. My experience is not large but, such as it is, I endorse Hamilton's views. After repeatedly reading articles on this disease, in all our standard works on practice, I rise from their perusal, convinced that I have not learned anything of practical benefit. These articles are written by men, who, if I may say it, seem to be writing to earn their money. The