

Case II.—A. G., aged 41, entered Montreal General Hospital January 10th, 1885, complaining of inability to move left leg without great pain. She had a large ulcerating carcinoma of left breast, on account of which she had been in the hospital before. While leaving hospital the last time this pain had come on and remained ever since. She died February 10th, 1885, and at the autopsy no secondary deposits were found anywhere in body.

Case III.—W. S., aged 60, was admitted to Montreal General Hospital, February 4th, 1886, complaining of cough, shortness of breath and pain in the chest, coming on about four months previously and gradually increasing. The physical signs were dullness over the lower part of front and side of right chest, with diminished respiration and coarse friction sounds. He was weak and kept to his bed. In April he developed sciatica in his left leg, and about a fortnight later in the right leg. He died May 24th, 1880, and at the autopsy was found a primary carcinoma of the right pleura, with secondary deposits in the lungs, liver, kidneys, and left supra renal capusule. There was no enlargement of the retroperitoneal glands, nor any apparent deposit about the nerve.

In these two latter cases there was unfortunately no examination made of the nerve microscopically, therefore the cause of the pain is left to conjecture.

It is to be observed in all three cases the absence of any of the usual causes of sciatica, exposure to cold, rheumatism, pelvic or abdominal tumours or disease of the spine, and the pain came on before the patient had become much debilitated.

In the first case, the pain came on when the patient was getting into bed, and came on so suddenly that she thought that something had broken or got out of place. The second patient had been confined to bed for some time and presumably had improved in health, for she was going down stairs preparatory to leaving the hospital when the pain came, slightly at first and gradually becoming more severe, until she was unable to move the limb. The third case had been in bed for two months when the pain appeared, and possibly asthenia may have been a causative factor here.