

fatally were due to actual lesions of the nerve tissue, principally in the shape of punctate extravasations.

Dr. Hamilton was perfectly aware of the fact, and agreed with the recent authorities that concussion could not take place without some lesion to the nerve tissue. He merely wished to be understood as saying that there was no palpable lesion in such cases.

DISCHARGE OF ODONTOID PROCESS THROUGH A POST-PHARYNGEAL ABSCESS.

Dr. Sayre, in that connection, referred to a most extraordinary specimen of fracture of the odontoid process that he had seen that morning, shown him by Dr. Bayard, of New Brunswick. Two years ago a child had fallen from a height and struck upon the back of the head. Paralysis of the upper and lower extremities occurred, and the head fell sideways upon the left shoulder. The paralysis and position of the head continued for a number of weeks, the former, however, gradually improving, when Dr. Bayard was called to see the case. He straightened the head somewhat by a suitable apparatus. The patient, at the end of some months, recovered sufficiently to be able to walk about. At the end of a year after the injury the child began to suffer a good deal from a cough, and an abscess appeared at the posterior part of the pharynx. In an attempt to open this abscess it had burst and discharged the odontoid process, which had been fractured at its base. Dr. Sayre had seen the specimen, and was satisfied that there was no mistake concerning it. The child subsequently entirely recovered.

Dr. Post referred to the case of a Long Island farmer who had fractured one or two of the cervical vertebrae by falling from a hay-mow and striking upon the back part of the head. Paralysis of the upper and lower extremities had continued more or less for a period of four years, when the patient recovered sufficiently to get about and attend to his business. The parts had become consolidated soon after the injury, which allowed of the favorable termination of the case.

MORBUS COXARIUS.

Dr. Hamilton presented a specimen of diseased hip-joint removed by operation from a child eight years old, on the 20th of May. The patient had received an injury early in life, from which no permanent ill effects had been observable. Three years ago it had received a second injury of the hip following which the usual signs of morbus coxarius showed themselves in due course, viz., contraction of the lower limb, sinuses communicating with dead bone, &c. The general condition of the patient was, however, measurably good, and Dr. H. deemed it proper to perform excision. After the removal of the part there was no great destruction of the dewl of the bone or other portion in the neighborhood. The retrograde metamorphosis had removed the synovial membrane and cartilage of incrustation. The acetabular cavity was almost entirely free from disease. The specimen was not remarkable in itself, but he presented it for the sake of making the suggestion that a committee of three be appointed to examine impartially into the merits of the excision of the hip, knee, and other joints, and report the results of their labors at the end of six months to the Society. The appointment of this committee was, on motion, made a special order of business for the executive session.

Transactions of the Gynecological Society of Boston.

In accordance with the desire of several medical men of Boston and its vicinity, who had previously consulted upon the subject, a meeting was held on January 22, 1869, for the purpose of establishing a Gynecological Society, the first, so far as can be ascertained, of its kind in this country.

The meeting having been organized, Dr. Storer presented the arguments that had influenced the members to found the new Society. They were the following:—

1. That such a Society seems needed, in order to stimulate its members and the profession generally to deeper sense of the importance of the diseases peculiar to women, and by the combination of individual effort to advance their knowledge of the causation, the pathology, and, still more, of the therapeutics of the lesions.

2. That it would do what can in no sense be just as well effected by other organizations already in existence. What is for everybody's interest is very apt to be done by no one. At a general medical and surgical society, there is not to be expected that intensity and focalization of scientific interest regarding special points which is necessary to advance the confines of a comparatively new science, which term Gynecological must be confessed already to deserve.

3. That there can be no doubt that the special diseases of women comprise a vast variety of disturbances, direct and reflex, much of which is but partially understood or entirely unknown.

4. That these disturbances are of extreme importance, not merely to the individual sufferer, but with reference to her relations to her family and to society.

5. That their importance, their variety, and their frequency are but partially appreciated by the profession, and still less by the community.

6. That not merely is this statement true of great numbers of imperfectly educated physicians, but it is also true of many gentlemen of acknowledged skill as practitioners, who have either lacked opportunity to perfect themselves in a knowledge of these diseases, or through an excessive conservatism have hesitated to acknowledge their existence.

7. That the marked advance of gynecological science and art within the past twenty-five years, gives reasonable promise of a still more rapid progress in time to come.

8. That so far from its being a disgrace to a physician to be interested in uterine diseases, it should rather be considered, if he is known to have been thoroughly educated in general practice, an honor. As with the diseases of special sense, the eye and the ear for instance, the diseases of the throat and chest, and of the mind, so here, all treatment must rest upon general principles;—and all methods of diagnosis, as all procedures of practice, not upon guesswork, but upon science and common sense.

9. That many of the great improvements that have been made have been American,—as the first successful performance of ovariectomy by McDowell; the suggestion of the rational treatment of vesicovaginal fistula by Marion Sims; and of flexions of the uterus by Emmet;—American gynecologists have already secured for the country a preëminent position in the world of science; it is for the members of this and kindred societies to make the position the more permanent.