

their prices, and the names of their purchasers. Themistocles could call by name the twenty thousand citizens of Athens. Mithridates, who ruled over twenty-two nations, spoke the language of each at its respective court. Scaliger, the prince of philologists and critics, who maintained that judgement and a great memory are seldom united, was a brilliant exception to his own theory. When a young man he could repeat over one hundred verses after a single reading, and in the course of a few weeks could give an accurate account of the contents of whole books in foreign languages. Lipsius remembered all the history of Tacitus; Klopstock the German poet, could repeat Homer from beginning to end; Grotius and Pascal are said to have forgotten nothing that they had ever read or thought; Leibnitz and Euler knew the *Æneid* by heart; Ben Jonson tells us that he could repeat all that he had ever written and whole books that he had read. Such was the strength of Niebuhr's memory that when employed in youth in one of the public offices in Denmark, it enabled him to restore part of a book of accounts which had been destroyed. Burke, Johnson, Da Vinci, O'Connell, and Douglas Stewart were remarkable for their retentive memory. The strength of this faculty in Macaulay excited the wonder of his friends, and led Lord Melbourne to say that he wished he was as sure of any one thing as Tom Macaulay was of everything.

The memory, however, like other functions of our nature, may be impaired by too severe use of it in early life, as its powers can only be gradually developed. Numerous instances have occurred of this faculty being so weakened by undue exercise as to be incapable of performing the simplest exercises. Forbes Winslow illustrates this by the case of a rather feeble minded man whose official duties were limited to signing his own name to a number of papers, but who became at last unable to recollect it. Indeed, the inability to recall one's name has been suddenly manifested by persons while calling on friends or inquiring for letters at the post office. A curious instance of temporary forgetfulness was that of an absent-minded gentlemen who, the day after his marriage, called at his mother-in-law's house, and inquired for his wife, whom he had left at his own, by her maiden name.

The vagaries of memory are often important tests of the condition of the brain, which gives warning in this way either of sudden injury or the progress of natural decay. Sometimes this abnormal influence is shown by the total obliteration of impression which a restoration to health will renew, even after the lapse of years; at others, groups of ideas are successively removed in the very order in which they were acquired, or the reverse; and again, a single letter in a word is the only trace of its disordered action. Dr. Graves, of Dublin, attended a farmer, whose memory was so impaired by a paralytic fit that, though able to call to mind other parts of speech, he invariably forgot substantives and proper names. All he could remember in such words was the initial letter. To remedy this defect he wrote down in a little pocket-dictionary the things he was in the habit of calling for or speaking about, including the names of his children, servants, and acquaintances, which he arranged alphabetically. His mode of using this book was as follows: If he wished to ask anything about a cow, before he commenced the sentence he turned to the letter C, and looked out for the word cow; keeping his finger and eye fixed on it until he had finished the sentence. He could pronounce the word cow in the proper place as long as he had his eye fixed upon the written letters; but the moment he shut the book it passed out of his memory, although he recollected its initial, and could refer to it when necessary. His dependence on his dictionary was shown on one occasion on a call on Dr. Graves in Dublin, when, having forgotten the book, which he usually brought open to the hall door, he was totally unable to tell the servant what or whom he wanted.

Examples of partial loss of memory heralding the approach of cerebral disease, are not uncommon in the experience of medical men. A patient who had several paralytic seizures, always knew when the attack was impending by forgetting his own Christian name. When asked to sign a paper, he could only write his surname, and occasionally only half of that. A similar inability to sign the full name sometimes occurs in epileptic persons, some days before their attacks. Intemperance in eating as well drinking, has been known to impair the memory. Suetonius says this was the cause of the sur-