

In neuralgia the pain is violent, and suddenly commences at a certain spot and spreads to other nerve filaments by radiation, it may be of long or short duration, and has a tendency to recur with equal intensity on the slightest provocation.

Neuralgia faciei is an affection of the tri-facial or fifth pair of nerves, being dependent upon a constitutional derangement or a local affection; the pain being generally felt above the orbit, in the cheek, mouth, lower maxilla, and lower teeth. Neuralgia faciei is very often dependent upon malarious fevers, and sometimes is the only symptom of that disease, the paroxysms being periodical instead of occurring only at regular intervals; as it does not come within our province as specialists to treat those fevers, I will not dwell on the subject.

If neuralgia faciei be of a constitutional character, it is produced either by cold, over exertion of the mental faculties, or a perverted state of the digestive apparatus, which causes a sympathetic irritation of the nervous system, predisposing certain nervous centres to morbid action; it may also be caused by close confinement, depriving the blood of the greater portion of its oxygen, thereby preventing the proper maintenance of the equilibrium between waste and repair of the tissues, in consequence, a general debility of the system ensues, which predisposes the nervous element to disease, it being more susceptible as it is the controlling power.

The mitigative treatment consists in the sub-cutaneous introduction of narcotics, warm applications to the seat of pain, and blistering. But the curative treatment would be: change of air, a sufficient amount of exercise daily, and the use of the iodide or sulphate of iron as tonics; however, it is better to administer the medicine in the form of a pill, as the ferruginous tinctures act most injuriously upon the teeth during their passage through the mouth. The narcotics generally used are the tincture of opium, morphia and atropia, their action being more prompt when injected through the cellular tissue than if administered otherwise. The hypodermic injection may be made at any part of the body, and will produce the same beneficial effects as if the medicine were introduced at the seat of pain. There are certain conditions of the system which forbid the use of opium, those are, a high state of inflammatory excitement, inflammation of the brain, or strong determination of blood to the head, by deficient secretion from inflamed mucous membranes, as in the early stages of bronchitis, and generally by constipation of the