

pulse, temperature, respiration, and general condition. Looking at the results generally in relation to all the cases there was no decided alteration in the bodily state while the myelin was being taken; no doubt two persons gained each about two lbs. in weight, but two others lost about the same amount. In two patients the respiration increased from 18 to 24 per minute, but in the others they were unchanged.

Referring now more particularly to the cases of insanity: in two there was improvement; in four there was no apparent alteration in the mental disorder. The most marked change occurred in the case of resistive melancholia. The patient was a married woman, aged 36, who had been an inmate of the asylum for two years and three months, when this special treatment was commenced. She had not improved, except in her bodily health, which was excellent; mentally she appeared to have sunk into a state of hopeless insanity. She had ceased to speak for at least a year previously, sat with her mouth pursed up, looking fixedly on the ground, did no work, and paid no attention to anything going on around. Early during her residence in the asylum the water cap had been applied to her head and water circulated through it at from 110° to 115° F., but this treatment was soon stopped as it did not appear to act beneficially.

On January 6th, 1893, myelin was begun in teaspoonful doses thrice daily before meals. On January 24th the following note was taken: "On the third day after the medicine was commenced, the patient became decidedly more active in mind, and since then the improvement has increased. Thus she now sits down to sew of her own accord, and does anything she is asked to do without pressure. On the third day, also, she began to speak, but only uttered a few words, and after being urged. On the fourth day the myelin was increased to two teaspoonfuls thrice daily. For some days after this she spoke somewhat freely and sensibly in answer to simple questions, but afterwards she got duller and spoke less." On February 8th it was noted that she still spoke occasionally and correctly, but that at other times she was rather obstinate, though she did as she was told without delay. At this date her weight was increased by two lbs. The myelin was continued till June 14th, when it was definitely stopped, and resumed after some days on three occasions. No distinct effect was, however, observed as a result of these intermissions and resumptions, except that latterly she became more excitable. About five weeks after the myelin was last given, the excitability, which had rather increased, culminated in her breaking several panes of glass. Since then she has been calmer, but has once more ceased to talk, though she continues to work, and shake hands with anyone who puts out his hand to her.

Considering the case as a whole, it is no doubt clear that patient had fallen back to some extent; still there remains improvement, when her present state is contrasted with what it was before the myelin was commenced.

The other patient, who has improved, is a woman, aged 60. She was admitted on Feb. 10th, 1893, laboring under profound melancholia of thirteen weeks' standing; she refused food and was suicidally disposed. There was also paralysis agitans of the right arm. Treatment of an ordinary kind was carried out till April 1st. There was then a little improvement, but it was not marked. She still required compulsion to take food, and it was necessary to keep her under observation. She was now ordered myelin in teaspoonful doses thrice daily. Under its use there was soon more obvious improvement, as was shown by her no longer requiring compulsion at meals, and by the alleviation of the mental depression. But the earlier rate of improvement was not maintained, and the myelin was stopped on May 6th. Since then her progress has been slow but satisfactory, though she cannot be considered well.

In this case the benefit derived from the myelin is less clear than in the first one, but it is probable that a part of the decided improvement should be ascribed to it. From a prognostic point of view the presence of the shaking palsy is not favorable to complete recovery. In the other cases of mental disease it was not clear that any effect was produced by the medicine, and it was, therefore, discontinued after a few days' trial.

In reference to the second group of patients, those, namely, who suffered from well-marked organic disease of the central nervous system, in only one could it be said that there was definite improvement under the use of the myelin. This was the case of chronic myelitis. The patient's power of walking was markedly improved for some weeks, but this change for the better was not maintained, and he gradually relapsed into his previous condition. No clear alteration, either for the better or the worse, was observable in any of the others.

These, then, are the results of my experience with this preparation. They cannot be said to be either definite or striking. And yet the impression remains on my mind that there is a constituent in the brain of the sheep, and doubtless also of other animals, which acts as a stimulus to nerve tissue cell and fibre in the human subject in certain morbid states of these structures.

It is probable that more decided beneficial effects will follow the subcutaneous injection of extracts of nerve substance. Indeed, this is claimed for them by several physicians.

But it appears to me to be premature, especially in the case of such a disease as epilepsy, to record "cures" soon after this or any other