

classed under the head of uric acid and certain substances connected with gout and rheumatism, and are very apt to produce headache. But why do these cause trouble in the head more than anywhere else? The reason is in many cases a local lesion, eyes, decayed teeth, etc.

Headaches, especially migraine, may be accompanied by various other symptoms. In ordinary cases migraine depends upon some spasm of the vessels outside the head, but not infrequently there may be spasm of vessels inside the head and then the functions of the brain may be affected. If spasm of the middle cerebral artery and its branches occur, symptoms will follow which depend upon the position of the spasm. If the occipital lobe be deprived of a great deal of its blood visual troubles will probably ensue—e. g., hallucinations, zigzag bodies, etc., etc.

We rarely have derangements of taste or smell, so that probably contraction of the vessel stops nearly opposite to the ascending parietal branch.

On these etiological points Brunton founds his treatment, the object being to clear away these products and supply the brain with healthy blood.

1. (a.) R. Pil hydrarg.

(b.) R. Haust. Nig.

To counteract the toxins and get rid of them by the liver he advises :

R. Sod. Salicyl, - - - - - gr. 15 to 30.

Pot. Brom., - - - - - gr. 10 to 30.

He recommends this at night and if the headache should still come on he recommends that it should be repeated. To counteract depression he adds 30 minims sp. am. aromat.

Brunton also calls attention to the use of antipyrin, phenacetin, etc. He points out that painful impressions do not pass to the cerebrum straight up, as a rule, because pain is largely conducted up the central column of the cord and not up the straight fibres which conduct tactile sensation. These drugs distribute the sensation so that it gets broken up in the cord and does not reach the centre for pain unless very severe. Caffeine, which is much used, acts rather on the posterior columns. Brunton also speaks of morphia and cannabis indica. Lastly, he refers to the value of potassium iodide in gouty, rheumatic and syphilitic cases.

Clifford Allbutt discussed the subject, but stated that contraction, of blood vessels in an area for a few hours was not attended with pain in that area.