

not aware that they have ever had any secondary symptoms. So important, in nervous cases, is the treatment, that the practice of giving a full course of potash as a test is highly recommended, and should be adopted in every case presenting the slightest element of doubt. Many such cases will arise, for the reason that although the concurrence of various symptoms and circumstances renders easy now and then a correct diagnosis of the syphilitic origin of a nerve-disorder, even without the help of the patient's history, yet there are no pathognomonic signs as yet definitely ascertained which will point conclusively, without the aid of the history, to the specific nature of the case. More dependence is to be placed upon the grouping together of various symptoms than upon any individual symptom. Take, for instance, Epilepsy. Many cases of general convulsions resemble, in almost every respect, what is called "Essential Epilepsy," and yet are due to constitutional taint. They cannot always be diagnosed as such. Then, the therapeutic test alone will often determine the question. If specific, bromides fail and iodide succeeds. But in other cases of epileptic character, certain other symptoms may be so associated with the convulsive attacks as to point the observer in the right direction. Dr. Buzzard says "there is frequently a history of antecedent pain in the head for months before the first fit." This is no part of the simple form. It was characteristically present, together with paresis of the limbs of one side, in the following case:—

CASE OF CEREBRAL SYPHILIS—PERSISTENT HEADACHE—REPEATED
EPILEPTIC ATTACKS—RAPID CURE UNDER
MERCURIAL INUNCTIONS.

J. C., æt. 30, single, admitted to hospital Oct. 8, '85, suffering from severe headache, and having recently had some epileptic fits. The first attack of this kind occurred on the 13th Sept. On that day he was seized with a sudden feeling of numbness, shooting rapidly up the right leg as far as the knee: the leg became cold and almost powerless. He stayed in bed the remainder of the day, trying to rub some life into the affected limb. Next day returned to work, but the leg felt heavy and inclined to drag. On the 20th, the right arm felt heavy and tired. By the 25th, this arm was useless, cold, and somewhat anæsthetic.