

that the symptoms known as syphilitic may now be divided into two classes, viz., syphilis, *pur et simple*, and syphilis plus sepsis. It is, therefore, just as important to detect the septic foci in this disease as in any other. Consider how much improvement is effected in many syphilitic conditions of the nervous system, and consider also how much more might possibly be accomplished if the other causes of infection were at the same time removed. Syphilis, in fact, predisposes to other septic infections, just as any other invading organism does. It follows, then, that chronic sepsis of any kind is apt to be a mixed one, and the failure of treatment directed against any one, may be due to others being undetected and unattacked. So that the perfect cure of oral sepsis, discovered in a sufferer from disseminated sclerosis, if it be not followed by amelioration of the symptoms, does not necessary prove that the principle of that treatment was wrong, but only that it was not the source or not the whole source of the disease in question.

In books on nervous diseases, the cause of sclerotic conditions is given in a very indefinite manner as due to possible congenital conditions, or as following fevers, injury, etc. They mention in the same indefinite manner the possibility of a toxin, but when they come to treatment the same round of rest, massage, electricity, etc., is given. This is just the same course which used to be prescribed for arthritis at the Spas, before the Spa physician recognized the rôle of sepsis in its causation. It was long before this view gained general acceptance, and no doubt it will be long before similar acceptance is granted to the idea of the septic cause of sclerotic nervous conditions. But as President Wilson has said, "principles are eternal," and that which causes sclerotic changes in kidneys, liver and lungs, must also be the cause of sclerotic conditions in the nervous system.

It should be mentioned that just as the use of rest, massage and electricity in nerve complaints is followed by temporary improvement, the same temporary result is obtained in arthritis. Since the use in addition of treatment, directed against the toxic elements of the disease, has become more common, far better results and many more cures are obtained. These cases are constantly being reported in current medical literature.

In fact the more one considers the matter the more one discovers how the condition of sepsis pervades the whole field of medicine. The late Mr. Labouchere was fond of saying that "medicine was mostly a matter of aperients." In so far as that the intestinal tract is a large source of sepsis, this opinion is correct. Examples crowd into one's mind of common experience corroborating this view. The well-being experienced after a suitable aperient is simply a case of increased effi-