

B. Disease of Spinal Cord.

1. Diffuse system degeneration, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, disseminate sclerosis, combined sclerosis, Friedreich's ataxia.
2. Local Affections.
 - (a) Intrinsic—Myelitis, thrombosis, tumour.
 - (b) Extrinsic—Pott's disease, tumour, trauma.

*B.—PSEUDO-PARAPLEGIA.**I. Disease of Anterior Horn Cells.*

- (a) Acute—Infantile paralysis.
- (b) Chronic—Progressive muscular atrophy.

*II. Disease of Peripheral Nerves.—Multiple neuritis.**III. Disease of Muscles.—Dystrophies.*

The patient is a woman of twenty-two, in whom the symptoms date back three years. Two points in the onset are especially noteworthy, namely, that it was a gradual one, and that a feeling of numbness long preceded the loss of power. When I first saw her, five weeks ago, her lower limbs were in a state of complete contracture; the flexion was so great that the knees touched the abdomen and the heels were pressed against the buttocks. Neither her efforts nor ours could unbend them an inch. Sores were present on the feet, no doubt from friction and pressure. The muscles of the thighs and legs were, and as you see still are, greatly wasted. We have never been able to elicit any of the deep or superficial reflexes in the lower limbs. There has been considerable retention of urine, frequently making necessary the use of the catheter, but never any incontinence. Sensation was quite abolished up to the pelvis, and blunted above that up to the costal margin. Above the waist there are no abnormal physical signs.

The clinical picture, the outlines of which I have just sketched, is evidently a grave one, and yet Dr. McKenzie has been able, by applying continuous forced extension, to get the limbs into practically their normal position. Coincidentally with this, the patient has recovered considerable power over them, and you see that she can now voluntarily bend or straighten them, though in an uncertain and tremulous manner. With the help of special apparatus she can even walk a few steps. This striking improvement is but another perplexing element in an obscure case, and we must take up the question of diagnosis with great care, though in the time allowed me I can only indicate the main steps in the argument.