

Discharged cured Aug. 31st. During this long period galvanism was used regularly, but tonics were given latterly. The patient was able long before her discharge to sew and make herself generally useful.

There are several curious points about this case: Firstly in its origin. This patient seems to have been poisoned by the use of certain pickles, all other sources of saturnism being excluded. A most careful enquiry eliminated any possibility of poisoning from the usual sources, as lead pipes, painting, etc. On being questioned, with a view of discovering if possible the source of the poisoning, she stated that she had eaten three times daily of certain prepared pickles, having been told to do so by a physician of her suburb as an appetizer.

She was positive that after a month of such diet she began to suffer from colic, constipation, and loss of appetite, and that soon after her hands began to grow weak, and her wrists to lose their power.

I have little doubt as to the origin of the *saturnism* in this case, for about the same time some of the same pickles gave rise to lead poisoning, and, upon being analysed, lead was found both in the pickles themselves and in the vinegar containing them. It is moreover a well known fact that acetate of lead is used in these condiments to impart freshness of color and other qualities.

Another interesting feature was the recovery of the case after so long a duration, and with such marked atrophy of the muscles. In looking over the ordinary text books we find it stated that such cases are generally hopeless as to prognosis, and indeed this case seemed in reality to be such, but, yielding as it did to therapeutic measures, was eminently calculated to encourage treatment in all cases, of whatever gravity.

The other case, Mde. B., æt. 30, admitted June 15th, 1882.

Has all symptoms of lead poisoning for 9 months.

At present there is a marked atrophy of the muscles of the posterior surface of the forearm, especially of the right side. She suffers moreover from great emotional troubles, being very despondent and spending most of her time in tears.

This case, under the usual eliminative treatment, rapidly improved and with galvanism was completely cured.

The peculiar feature was its similarity of causation with the other, this patient being also a great eater of pickles. At the same time her husband, who never partook of such articles of diet, was perfectly free from all such troubles.

Of the pathology of lead poisoning much may be said but little concluded. The digestive troubles are easily explained, but the palsy and other nervous symptoms are more difficult to locate. While it is certain that lead is found in most of the tissues in such cases, it is yet a question not only whether the muscles are the primary cause, but whether the trouble resides either in the peripheral nerves or in the anterior horns of grey matter. Dr. Wilhem Erle, of Leipsic, says: It appears indeed to be positively determined that the trouble is not situated primarily in the muscles, but is of neurotic origin; but whether the primary lesion must be sought for in the peripheral nerves (and in their motor fibres alone) or in the anterior gray columns of the spinal cord has not been definitely ascertained. The more recent observations which have shown a parenchymatous degeneration of the peripheral nerves, and negative appearances in the spinal cord favor the view of a peripheral lesion. Nevertheless I can not regard it as positively proven that the spinal cord is not primarily diseased. What can be proven by the *negative* results of examination with our present defective microscopical methods? *Gross* lesions cannot be looked for in a toxic process which usually recovers in a short time, and the *functions* of the anterior gray columns and their ganglion cells may be very markedly disturbed although no change can be demonstrated microscopically: And this disturbed function may produce degenerative atrophy of the peripheral nerves as readily as a primary affection of these tracts.

Society Proceedings.

OTTAWA DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting was held in Ottawa on the 14th of November, when Dr. J. A. Grant delivered the annual address. After thanking the members for the mark of their confidence in again selecting him as President and his son as Secretary, he referred to the thirty years that he had practiced the profession in the city and the pleasantness that