

J. PERRIGO, M.D.—With regard to isolation, it is a most difficult thing to do, especially in the home. Then the obtaining of a nurse in whom the patient can have confidence is another matter, and not one, but many nurses, should be tried until one is found suitable to the patient. We are all apt to slur these cases over, and the title of the paper to-night, "A Plea for the Neurasthenic," is the best that could be given.

D. A. SHIRRES, M.D.—It is absolutely impossible to isolate in private dwellings; and even in hospitals it is often hard to accomplish it. Functional diseases are congenital; people are born that way, and the etiology of such a condition is pure physical exhaustion. As regards medicine, it is of very little avail; only absolute rest, careful dietry, massage, and keeping away all disturbing influences.

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Diphtheria in 1890 proved fatal in full 40 per cent. of cases. In a family of eight children attacked by the malady from three to five were certain to die. Since then I have seen epidemics in which children were attacked by undoubted diphtheria, proved to be such by subsequent palsies without one death, and this, too, in the absence of special treatment. I have knowledge of one case which was deemed miraculous when it happened. A woman aged 95 years slowly and painlessly became blind, I presume from cataract. Having occasion to arouse her neighbours one night, in attempting to do so she fell against the sharp pointed forge-made latch of a door. It penetrated the eye, but some days later the poor woman who thought her eye utterly lost was overjoyed to find her sight in great measure restored. The lens was accidentally extruded. Some years ago a man presented himself to me for advice with respect to an ulcerated cornea. The eye was so badly damaged that I advised its removal. This was declined, and some days later a member of the family wrote enclosing a lump which came out of the father's eye. It was the lens which had escaped through a large opening in the cornea.—Dr. C. P. Bissete in *Maritime Medical News*.

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A report of the railway accidents in the United States during the months of October to December, 1904, has been compiled and published by the Inter-State Commerce Commission. During that period 63 passengers and 189 employees were killed and 1,430 passengers and 1,368 employees were injured—a total of 242 persons killed and 3,298 injured in railway accidents. Other accidents to passengers and employees, not the result of collisions or derailments, bring the total number of casualties up to 14,978—951 killed and 14,027 injured.