

apparent change in gross brain structure, although such change may be great in the ultimate elements, but, so far, beyond human ken. Simple blood deterioration may exist by the absorption of toxic agents, or by the absence of normal constituents. Numberless are the ways of a malign nature which disturb the sensorium, yet without physical suffering. Post mortems often reveal exostoses of all sizes growing from the calvarium, tumors, encapsuled abscesses, and the death of extensive areas of brain substance, as the result of embolism, without headache or even any apparent functional disorder commensurate with the injury found. It is astonishing how much destructive lesion and constructive abnormalities can exist within the skull without mental or physical disabilities. Very few of the insane complain of headache, and often, when such complaint is made, all the conditions of health are present. Good sleep, unimpaired appetite, and no constitutional disturbance show how often such statements are delusional, or made to deceive. Usually the hysterical, who border on the above class, have periodical headaches. It is generally located in the top of the head, and along the line of the occipito-frontalis muscle. Sometimes it is found in the neighborhood of some of the terminal branches of the fifth nerve. Worry of any kind, or menstrual disorder, intensifies it. The patient describes it as if a nail were penetrating the head. The neurasthenic headache is usually of a dull and undefined character, with, occasionally, tenderness in the back part of the head.

In the treatment of any of the head neuralgias or headaches, two objects are kept in mind: First, to relieve the immediate and persistent local pain; second, to cure, if possible, the disease by using remedies which tend to bring about a better condition of the system.

To alleviate local pain we have at our command a number of sedatives and anodynes, such as aconite, menthol, belladonna, and chloroform for external applications, and a legion of remedies such as quinine, iron, arsenic, opium and its salts, chloral, hyoscyamine, antipyrine, the bromides, and all the much-lauded remedies which have recently sprung into existence through synthetical chemistry. The remedies are so many that they can be counted by the hundreds, and this poly-pharmacy has been endorsed by many respectable physicians, who lend their names and influence to druggists to induce their less credulous brethren to invest in these so-called panaceas. When countless medicines are prescribed for any one disease we may be sure no specific has been found for it, and that our administration of drugs must be largely empirical, or simply based upon experience.

It is true that the causes which operate to produce the neuralgias and headaches are often obscure, and too often have to be dealt with on general principles. We reason from analogy in our practice, and aim to