

to the effects and symptoms exhibited. I could find none that I could apply in this case; and, in the absence of any other evidence to explain how or when the poison had been obtained and dealt with, could form only a speculative opinion on a point that might implicate a second party.

The verdict therefore was, "That the deceased had died from the effects of arsenic; but whether administered to her by any one, or that she took it herself, there was no evidence to show."—*London Lancet*.

PARALYSIS OF ALL PARTS BELOW THE NECK—DEATH—AUTOPSY—  
MALIGNANT DISEASE OF CERVICAL VERTEBRÆ.

This case is of great interest in several ways. In the first place, the diagnosis of cancer was difficult, as there was no prominent symptom beyond the paralysis. It is true that there were pains in the shoulders; but these were not definite enough to lead to any certain conclusion, and, indeed, were, before he came to the Hospital, taken for rheumatism. It is only when pain follows the course of some definite spinal nerves that it can be of much use in helping us to locate disease in the spine. We have recently seen several cases of paraplegia in which the cause of the paralysis was cancer of the spine, and yet was not diagnosed during life. The sudden onset of paralysis is not likely at first thought to countenance the diagnosis of cancer; but we must remember that, although it may have been growing in the bones of the spine a long time, it may, as in Dr. Black's case suddenly invade a part of the cord, the anterior columns, where are collected in a small space the motor fibres of the muscles of the four limbs and of the trunk.

It is said in the report of the case that the effect on the cord—*i.e.*, on the anterior or motor columns—was apparently the result of pressure only. It is certainly singular that there should be so much paralysis, and yet so little apparent damage to the cord. But this is very commonly so. In a case lately in Guy's Hospital, a patient had paralysis (of motion only) in both legs. He died; and at the autopsy, although at one point there was found cancer of the bones of the spine, yet the cord looked healthy, and nothing morbid was found in it by recent microscopical examination. In all such cases, however, it is necessary that a careful examination should be made on Lockhart Clarke's method after the cord has been hardened in chromic acid. This method would clear up many obscurities. Indeed, we may say without exaggeration that Lockhart Clarke's researches open out quite a new field—not in the physiology of the Nervous System only but in its pathology too.