

one alive and well; one died of "heart disease," and the other of a "paralytic stroke." Three sisters alive and well; two died in infancy. There is no history of spasms of the face or elsewhere occurring in any member of the family.

*Previous Health.*—Patient was a strong man, and is so still, except for the spasms complained of. He has had an easily reducible inguinal hernia since boyhood, dating from a fall he had from a horse at the age of 12. He suffered from influenza 10 years ago, and from inflammation of the lungs 2 years ago. No history of venereal disease.

*Present illness* began gradually about 16 months ago with involuntary winking of the eyes; he had no disease of the eyes, nor can he give any reason for the onset of the affection. The winking was worse at first when he was walking about, and was nearly absent when sitting or lying down. Some three months later he had a fall from a sleigh, striking the back of his head on the road, but he was only stunned and the twitchings did not seem to have been made worse by the accident.

The twitchings gradually increased. He first came to my clinic at the General Hospital in March, 1900, that is, about six months after the commencement of the illness, when I made the following note: "26 Mar., 1900. Patient is a healthy looking man; every now and then a spasm of both orbicularis palpebrarum muscles comes over him, lasts for a few seconds and passes away. No pain is present at the time. Bright light and walking brings it on. No other symptoms. No soreness of the eyes."

He attended for some weeks, during which time a variety of drugs were tried without any benefit being produced. He then was lost sight of until December last, when he returned decidedly worse; now the spasms were almost constant even when sitting, and they involved most of the muscles of expression. The health was otherwise good. The appetite and bowels were normal.

In the end of January I examined him in detail, and found the condition to be as follows:

Patient is a well nourished man; nothing abnormal discoverable in the muscles below the level of the neck. When sitting quietly with the eyes closed he is pretty steady, but the eyelids twitch slightly in a rhythmical manner at the rate of about 120 per minute. When he tries to open the eyes he partially succeeds, but almost at once a series of spasms of the eyelids, face and neck set in: the eyes are closed firmly and spasmodically, the forehead wrinkles up and relaxes, the condition of *risus sardonicus* is assumed—his jaws clench and his teeth are heard to grate, the strands of the platysmæ, stand out like cords, the