

dry's paralysis, subacute combined degeneration of the cord, cerebral and spinal syphilis, general paralysis, and locomotor ataxy. For convincing proof of the bacterial genesis of brain and cord affections, reference should be made to the work of Drs. Orr and Rows, published in 1914 in the "Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine," and also in *Brain*. In these papers the investigators not only proved the fact, but they also showed the paths of infection of the nervous system from such diverse septic foci as carcinoma of the tongue, erysipelas of the face, bed sores, psoas abscess, and cystitis. They further formulated the laws which govern such infections—as, for instance, that "the locality of the lesion in the spinal cord always corresponds with the nerve supply of the infected focus."

That very great improvement can be obtained when the cause is syphilitic by rigorous anti-syphilitic remedies suggests that anti-toxic principles applied in cases due to other causative organisms would be likely to be followed by similar good results.

We know that from the earliest moments of our existence to its termination we are continually subjected to its termination we are continually subjected to the attacks of micro-organisms, and that our health and life depend on a successful defence. As long as our defensive arrangements are effective we are free from the assaults of the enemy. But at various times, and for various reasons, our defence breaks down, and one or more of the allied forces obtain a local foothold, or a general occupation. Those who study the diseases treated at baths and spas know how common it is to find there local footholds, or septic foci, existing all unsuspected by their hosts, who go for treatment for quite different reasons. One need only instance arthritis. In this disease it is a very common experience to cure the complaint solely by treatment directed to the local septic focus. Such foci may be found in the mouth, in the posterior nasal space, in the maxillary sinuses, in a bronchial catarrh, in the ear, in the big bowel, in the gall ducts, in the kidneys—and, in fact, almost everywhere.

Now if such comparatively coarse structures as joints should thus be affected and destroyed by low-grade septic organisms, it is obvious that it is more than likely that the more delicate nervous centres would also be liable to be a prey to similar attacks. With the evidence which we have of the effects produced by the spirochæte, the proposition has surely only to be suggested to be at once accepted. Therefore it is contended that in all cases of nervous disease, the preliminary to all treatments should be a thorough search for, and cure of, all septic foci.

This search is not at all unnecessary even if the syphilitic origin of the complaint be admitted. It is gradually coming to be recognized