

upon as of vascular origin, while at other times its neurotic origin appeared to have most supporters. Ragnaud and Weiss have advanced the theories that the essential starting point is a functional derangement of the vaso-motor centre, through which a permanent contraction of the vessels is brought about—the arterioles, according to the former, and the smaller veins according to the latter. From the recent researches of Prof. Pitres and Vaillard, it appears that these views can be no longer maintained, but that we must look upon the disease as a neuritis of the peripheral nerves. They report in full, two cases of this disease where autopsies were obtained. The first occurred in a girl 24 years of age, who enjoyed good health up to her eighteenth year. From this out she became weak, and her limbs trembled and contractures of the lower extremities set in. On the 5th December, 1883, she was admitted into the hospital with gangrene of both feet (symmetrical). Two weeks later there were two symmetrical patches on the back; six weeks afterwards there was spontaneous amputation of the left foot at the ankle joint, the right foot hanging by a few threads. In various parts of the body there was superficial sloughs. Death occurred just two months after the disease was first noticed. At the autopsy, the nerves of the gangrenous parts presented marked alterations. The right anterior tibial nerve had hardly a healthy fibre left. The nerve fibres of all the affected parts had lost their myelin sheaths, and between them was situated fat-drops and leucocytes.

The second case occurred in a woman aged 56. It began with loss of sensation in the soles of the feet, followed, four months afterwards, by vesicles and swelling of the feet. When admitted into hospital in January, 1884, the patient had a normal temperature. There was great œdema of the left foot, with ecchymotic patches under the nails. The whole foot had a bluish appearance. It was cold and devoid of feeling. The right was similarly, although not so extensively, affected. There was neither sugar or albumen in the urine. The patient died two weeks after admission in a comatose state, the gangrene in the meantime having made such progress that both feet were in a mummified condition. The only changes of moment noticed at the post-mortem were the extensive alterations in the nerves of