

Since then, the disease has been a good deal studied and written upon by the medical men of England. Among the number, I may mention Drs Radcliffe, Julius Althaus, Johnson and Jackson. The first and second have given us good articles upon it, but no one, up to the year 1867, had succeeded in making a perfect cure from it. Prof. Flint, in his admirable work on practice of Medicine, after describing Loco-motor Ataxia in his most lucid manner, says, "the prognosis is as unfavorable as possible. The most to be hoped for, is, that it will remain stationary or advance very slowly."

In the autumn of 1868, I had my first patient of this disease, and succeeded in curing her, which I published in the February, 1869, number of the *New York Medical Journal*,—the first perfect recovery, I believe, on record. Since then, Prof Hammond has perhaps given us the best description of this malady yet published, in which he claims to have cured 5 out of 91 that he has treated. He calls the disease "Posterior Spinal Sclerosis," designating it by the lesion, and not by the symptoms, the lesion being sclerosis of the posterior roots of the spinal nerves, or wasting of the posterior columns of the spinal cord.

SYMPTOMS—This disease has no uniform set of initial symptoms. Sometimes it begins with dull, heavy pains in the small of the back or other parts of the spinal column, which are very soon followed by sharp, elastic-like pains, which shoot down the limbs along the course of the nerves, and which are very generally taken by the patient for twinges of neuralgia or rheumatism, or it may be first manifested by a sense of constriction around the lower part of the chest, or abdomen, as if a cord were tied tightly around the body of the patient. With Major D., my third patient, the first thing that disturbed him was (being awake at night) pains running down the outside of the legs and along the outer border of the foot. This was soon followed by a sense of constriction around the lower part of the chest. In some cases, the first symptoms are cerebral, and may consist of attacks of vertigo, epileptic fits, disturbances of vision, defective accommodation and amaurosis. My second patient, Thomas C., suffered from this symptom, or rather disease, for about fifteen months, before the ataxic symptoms manifested themselves. At other times, the stomach and bowels are the first to speak out: there may be vomiting, diarrhoea or constipation. Finally, the first symptoms may be connected with sensibility, giving rise to anaesthesia and the various abnormal sensations connected therewith.