

said to be shortened in epilepsy. The reader referred to a hundred cases of his own observed at the Hudson River State Hospital, at Poughkeepsie, in which asymmetry had been observed.

Progressive Muscular Atrophy with Anæsthesia.

Dr. J. A. Booth reported the case of a man, forty-two years of age, a shoemaker by trade, who was still under observation. There was no family history of nervous disorders, nor any history of alcoholism or syphilis in the case. The patient had been married eighteen years, and had had two children; one, a girl of five years, had never walked. The affection had commenced in October, 1878, with general weakness and weakness in the arms and hands. In January, 1879, the patient's voice had commenced to be husky. Six months later he complained of a feeling of cold and numbness in the left shoulder and side of the neck, with subsequent decrease in size. The atrophy, commencing in the deltoid, had spread to other muscles of the trunk and other extremities. At the present time the patient weighed 155 pounds. There was marked sinking in of both shoulders, also weakness of the upper extremities, with marked atrophy of the interossei. There were scars and abrasions about the hands and a scar on the neck. The patient stated that he did not know when these injuries had been received, that he had not felt them. There was no ataxia of the gait or upon standing. The voice was harsh, and the left side of the palate was paretic, the uvula being drawn to the right. There were marked fibrillary contractions in the atrophied muscles. The patellar reflexes were exaggerated. There was sluggishness of the accommodation, but no change in the visual field and no diplopia. Taste, smell, and hearing were not impaired. It was apparently a case of progressive muscular atrophy with bulbar symptoms. The reader called attention to the sensory impairment as an unusual complication, and suggested, to account for the anæsthesia and analgesia, a lesion in the peduncle or pons on the right side.

Dr. Starr remarked that the anomaly mentioned had been recorded by Ross and by Gowers in their text-books. In cases of this character *post-mortem* examinations had shown abnormal cavities in the cord, due chiefly to the degeneration of gliomatous tumors. Schultze had described cases, also Baumler in her article upon syringomyelia.

The case reported by Dr. Booth was, in the speaker's opinion, a case of this kind. The fact that the senses of touch, pain, and temperature were all abolished would support this view. The sense of touch sometimes escaped in syringomyelia, but not always. The three tracts were found in the formatio reticularis of the medulla and pons, and extended through at least one-fourth of its extent. A lesion affecting them all would involve also the cranial nerves passing through this part. The symptoms reported could be more satisfactorily explained by a lesion in the cord and by considering the case as one of syringomyelia.

DISEASES OF CHILDREN. *Symptoms in Cw?* 1881/552.

Summer Diarrhœas of Infancy.

Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, in an article in *Medical News*, of June 9th, discusses this subject and presents his views in the form of propositions, bringing forward evidence to support the same.

I. The factor which is most frequently operative in the summer diarrhœas of children under two years of age is to be found in the food.

He considers the weather as a mediate rather than an immediate cause of disease; heat being operative in two ways, first, a temperature of 60° F., or higher favors development and dissemination of germs in air and food, which are further favored by the conditions found in the child's stomach; secondly, the heat depresses the nerve centres and may give rise to altered gastric and intestinal secretions.

II. The changes whereby baneful substances are formed in the food, either before or after it is taken into the body, are fermentative in character, or, in other words, are due to micro-organisms.

Breast-fed children are undoubtedly the healthiest, and he considers that the prevalence of disease in many children fed upon cows' milk as not so much due to chemical differences of composition as to the perfectly sterile nature of the mother's milk, whereas that of the cow is contaminated with micro-organisms in transit, although primarily free from them. He made experiments upon cows' milk by introducing capillary tubes into the teats; these, upon being kept for some days at temperature of body, showed no change. Market milk, however, when introduced into similar tubes decomposed in a few hours.

Escherich has made similar experiments on