

having at that time given much attention to the subject, I was induced to look upon them as cases of simple anæmia. We find, in like manner, that these cases in civil practice are usually among those persons who are subject to depressing causes, such as grief, mental anxiety, poor living, and other concomitants of the struggle for life which obtain among a large part of our population. Such cases are met with frequently in dispensary practice, and are, without doubt, principally if not wholly owing to the above causes, which act so powerfully in lowering the tone of the vital powers. Dr. Richardson is of opinion that these cases, especially such of them as have an intermittent pulse, are altogether due to some disease of the nervous centres, and points to those at the base of the brain as probably being affected. It is not unreasonable to suppose that there is some nervous affection existing in, or perhaps underlying such cases, but the question arises, has the nervous element a primary causative relation, that is to say, is there an organic change in the nerve tissue displaying itself by causing disturbance of the heart's action, or is the nervous affection merely functional and secondary, being brought about by a depressed state of the general system reacting upon the nervous centres.

From my own experience I am inclined to adopt the latter view, having found, as will be shown hereafter, that the class of medicines called nerve tonics are the most efficacious remedies. If, however, organic nerve change had taken place, such would hardly be the case since we do not suppose that any medicinal substance possesses the power of remedying organic changes in the tissues of the body. There are many examples of extrinsic causes acting on nerve tissue and producing functional disease, thus we sometimes have neuralgia, spasms, loss of muscular power, sensation, and many other symptoms of nervous disturbance occurring in the course of many diseases without any change observable after death in the nerve structures, and these symptoms sometimes remain long after the causes which produced them have passed away.

When we consider that the nervous system, as a generator of force, is dependent upon the blood, we can readily understand that its healthy functions may be disturbed by the addition of foreign substances to this fluid, or by diminution of its normal constituents; hence we often have cases of neuralgia dependent upon a paucity of red corpuscles and local affections in lead poisoning, primarily owing to the presence of a foreign substance in the blood reacting upon the nervous system.

We may, in this way, account for the

nervous symptoms in these cases of cardiac affection, by supposing that the existing state of the system, in interfering with the normal condition of the blood and causing mal-nutrition of the heart's structure, may react upon the nerves supplying the organ and interfere with their normal functions. Consequent upon this we have disturbance of the heart's action continuing until its muscular structure has returned to its healthy condition.

(To be continued.)

## Hospital Reports.

### PROVINCIAL AND CITY HOSPITAL.

We are greatly indebted to Dr. J. Venables, Jr., the house surgeon to the hospital, for notes of the following cases:—

The two following cases are interesting, as showing the beneficial effects of the bromide of potass in delirium tremens. In the first case opium was administered in conjunction with the bromide: but when the latter remedy was discontinued, the patient became restless and violent, and on its re-administration he again continued to improve. In the second case no other remedy was given.

J. J——, 52, pedlar, admitted May 5th, 1868, under the care of Dr. Hattie. For some years past has been addicted to excessive drinking, and on a previous occasion had an attack of delirium tremens. His friends stated that he had been suffering from delirium for ten days previous to his admission, and had had no sleep for a week. He was excessively nervous and inclined to be violent, and was troubled greatly with vomiting, which had continued at intervals for the past three weeks. Ordered the following mixture:

R Potass. Bromid ʒjss.

Aqua ʒiv. M. ft. mist.

To take a tablespoonful every 3rd hour. Beef tea and milk to be given *ad libitum*.

May 6th—Passed a very restless night. To continue the mixture and take pulv opii gr ij. at bedtime.

May 7th—Patient slept for several hours after taking the opiate—ordered pulv opii gr j. at bedtime. To discontinue the mixture.

May 8th—Slept for three hours last night, but towards morning became very restless and violent. The mixture to be repeated. From this time till the 16th he continued to take the bromide mixture alone, and was discharged cured on that day.

S. F——, 23, labourer, admitted into hospital June 22nd, under the care of Dr. Black. His friends state that he has always enjoyed