

which was the main determining cause of the type. A fortunate sequence of cases suggested the seat of the mischief. It was a well known fact that a change of residence from the country or a small town, where a person has been constantly employed in the open air, to a large city and an in-door employment, is followed by very marked symptoms of impaired nervous energy. This history and these symptoms preceding the commencement of the attack I found in a number of consecutive cases, and I was thus led to extend my inquiry into other causes of enervation in the previous history of the patient. Epilepsy, paralysis, chorea, and other causes of impairment of the nervous system, appeared in the previous history of some, while in others, where the cause of nervous lesion was not so evident, nothing more than previous symptoms could be elicited, attributed to confinement in close or ill-ventilated work-shops, heat, or some other depressing agency. The great prostration and the tendency to hypostatic congestions which I observed invariably in such cases strengthened my opinion. Having thus been satisfied that the lesion lay in the nervous system, the next step was to try what could be done in the way of treatment. I chose strychnia as the most powerful nervine tonic with which I was acquainted, and determined to push its use to the greatest extent possible. The following was the mixture used:—

R—Liquoris Strychniæ.

Tinct. ferri hydrochlor., aa ʒj.

Inf. quassia, ad ʒviij. M.

Sig.—One to be given every three hours.

Considerable fear was entertained at first lest mischievous effects should be produced by the large doses of the strychnia in the exhausted state of the patient, but experience showed that ʒjss of the *Liquor* might be given in the twenty-four hours, *if the case was very severe*, and yet no physiological effect be produced; while in an ordinary case, in which merely ʒj. per diem had been given, slight trismus and pain and twitching in the muscles of the neck resulted.

In those instances in which the case came under treatment early, our results were very satisfactory. If the hæmorrhage had not yet commenced, it was often prevented, or merely occurred to such an extent as to show the tendency; while if it had commenced, packing in wet sheets for a few hours was found a most valuable adjunct to the treatment. Mr. Greaves had previously satisfied himself that this practice had a beneficial, though transient, effect upon the hæmorrhage; but it had been discontinued