

going on during the treatment. Another important amendment has been the almost entire disappearance of the lightning pains. Since the treatment has been begun there have been nocturnal erections of the penis, which had not been the case for years. These erections partake of the nature of "spermatic crises" so characteristic of spinal cord disease. Charcot has noted them in his series of cases treated by suspension. That this patient has been benefited by the treatment neither Dr. de Witteville nor others who have followed the case throughout have any doubt. The man himself also feels much improved by it. Suspension has been practiced for from thirty to fifty seconds twice a week, axillary straps being always used. Dr. de Witteville is of opinion that suspension by the head alone should never be practised until the other mode has been frequently practised first.

In conclusion, we may say that in the present early stage of the trial of the remedy it is obvious that caution must be exercised in forming an opinion of its efficacy.—*London Lancet.*

SUSPENSION IN THE TREATMENT OF LOCOMOTOR ATAXY.

With reference to the subleader on this subject which appeared in the *Journal* of February 23rd, may I be allowed to state the results obtained, so far, in three cases which have been treated by this plan for the last month, commencing soon after the appearance of M. Charcot's lecture in *Le Progres Medical* for January 19th.

Case I.—E. G., aged 52, was admitted January 24th with lightning and girdle pains, ataxy, loss of pupil reflexes and knee-jerks and inability to stand with his eyes shut; entire loss of vesical reflex and of power of voluntary micturition. He was suspended first on January 28th, and since then has been suspended twenty-one times, generally for two minutes, sometimes for fifteen or thirty seconds longer. He complains of no disagreeable effects, except singing in his ears during the time he is suspended. He is a small, light man. In addition to this treatment, he has been blistered down the spine, and has taken 30 grains of iodide of potassium

three times a day. His present condition (February 24th) is: no girdle pain, very little lightning pain, walks better, passes an increasing quantity of water voluntarily; knee-jerks, pupil reflexes, and inability to stand with his eyes shut are as they were.

Case II.—H. H., aged 40, admitted January 28th with lightning pain, gastric crises, ataxy, inability to stand with eyes shut, no knee-jerks or pupil reflexes. He has been suspended seventeen times; as he is very nervous, the duration has averaged under two minutes, though lately this period has been regularly attained. He formerly complained of "fulness of the head," lasting for some hours after the operation, but he does not do so now. His pains are better; he has no gastric crises since admission, but he is otherwise not improved. He has been taking 30-grain doses of iodide of potassium three times a day.

Case III.—E. L., aged 24, admitted January 24th, with girdle and lightning pains, ataxy, and inability to stand with his eyes shut; knee-jerks exaggerated, pupil reflexes present. There is a distinct history of syphilis. He has been suspended fifteen times since February 3rd. In addition he has taken 30 grains of iodide of potassium three times a day, and has been blistered down the spine. At the present time his pains are better, but there is no other improvement.

These results are not very striking, but the average duration of treatment in Charcot's cases was twenty-seven suspensions, and I have not reached his maximum of four minutes. I intend to persevere with the plan, as it is not attended with any serious inconvenience. Case I has undoubtedly improved, though to what extent this should be attributed to the suspension may be doubtful.—Robert Saundby, M.D. Edin., F.R.C.P. Lond., Physician to the General Hospital, Birmingham.

LONG PERIOD OF SYPHILITIC INCUBATION.—Falcone reports a case in which the primary sore first appeared on the fifty-sixth day after contagion. Immediately after exposure the patient took typhoid fever, and thus the long incubation was proved to have existed.