

**ATROPHY OF MUSCLES.**—His remarks on atrophy of the muscles are very good. Nerve force, he says, is capable as far as we know, of indefinite improvement, but the muscle it plays upon cannot be made stronger than it was originally intended to be, and when over strained it degenerates. The treatment consists in enforcing complete rest of the parts affected. The dropped hand is to be fastened in a splint, the paralyzed humerus put in a sling, keeping the elbow well supported. If the appetite be lost, beef-tea and milk is to be given medicinally every two hours, adding pep-sine, if necessary; and cod-liver oil and quinine be prescribed. Electricity may also be employed. When the pain is severe, cold douche baths, or cold water compresses, he has found to give greater relief than any thing else.

After three excellent lectures on chorea, epilepsy, and hysteria, he speaks of

**SPINAL PARALYSIS.**—Disease of the spinal cord is accompanied by pain. Local pain is also absent in cases where hæmorrhagic clots, tumours, or inflammatory softening, occupy the central parts of the cerebral mass, whilst, on the other hand, it is almost always present when the dura or pia mater is affected.

**SCIATICA.**—When sciatica is accompanied by deep seated pain in the pelvis, we may consider it as a proof that the sacral plexus is likewise involved. The most efficacious treatment for which is by the internal use of spirits of turpentine. He recommends it to be given in half ounce doses, combined with an equal quantity of castor oil, and taken in simple water three times a week. Should hæmaturia occur, the medicine must be suspended, and the irritation of the bladder be soothed by opium suppositories or enemata. We may afterwards resort to cupping on the hip with advantage. In sciatica pain is frequently felt in the lower part of the leg, and not in the hip except when pressed upon. This fact, retained in the memory, will often prevent the useless waste of our remedies on the branches of the nerve, which is so greatly required for its relief. When loss of power is felt in the bladder in sciatica, it confirms the diagnosis by proving that the morbid condition is within the pelvis, and that the vesical branch of the sacral plexus is likewise involved. And should there be no old fracture in conjunction with it, you need not fear the employment of turpentine. When sciatica is occasioned by a gouty crisis, the treatment must be concluded by a resort to colchicum and iodide of potassium, otherwise the pain will be liable to return. Plasters are of no use in the acute stages of sciatica, i.e. when the patient is getting about, they serve as a protection against cold.

**ALBUMENURIA.**—The prognosis in this disease is not when the specific gravity and quantity of urine voided does not differ from health. It is next best when the quantity only is lessened, next when the specific gravity alone is affected; and worst when both specific gravity and quantity are diminished.

Special remedies are not needed for such variety of degenerated kidneys; and it is fortunate that it is, for at present our means of diagnosis do not enable us to find out which form lies hid in the body of a sick man. The amount of albumen voided is rarely of practical importance, for it is not the loss of this, but the state of the constitution

that is the real object to be attended to. Other things being equal, the shedding of tube casts is decidedly to be preferred to their retention and subsequent degeneration. Iron is the mainstay; our author gives the tincture.

In chronic affections of the kidneys, we often find degenerate heart-muscle. It is in such cases, especially when accompanied by irregular pulse, that digitalis is so useful. From 25 to 50 minims of the tincture may be given in the 24 hours. Strychnine is likewise a valuable tonic. The best is the muriate, which should always be prescribed in a liquid form, and, like the strychnine itself, be given in doses of a twentieth of a grain to commence with. But if especially serviceable, it may be gradually increased to double this dose.

It is well known that there is no remedy capable of doing so much harm in albumenuria as mercury. Yet where the specific gravity and quantity of the urine are any way approaching to normal, it may be used with most powerful effect to remove the dropsy; and when all other means have failed, you may often save a patient's life by an agent whose full effect would be poison to him. But remember you are wielding a sledge hammer. Visit your patient between each blow; watch its action with suspicion; and give the mercury in conjunction with digitalis. He speaks decidedly against alcohol, and forbids its employment, except in cases of drunkards, and then only when after fairly trying to leave it off, the patient is found to be sinking from the want of it. An important item in the treatment of albumenuria is warm clothing, especially woollen next the body. When the quantity of urine excreted is defective, he directs the patient to be kept in bed, and to be put upon frequent large draughts of weak broth, with nitre. He particularly objects to any purgative in dropsy more powerful than jalap and cream of tartar.

**ASCITES.**—Dr. Chambers' favourite remedy is iron. And when there is deficient muscular action of the intestinal walls, as shown by flatus of the ilia, he conjoins a twentieth of a grain of strychnia to each dose. In dropsy, when the portal system is congested, even elaterium may fail of producing vigorous hydragogue action; but if this be reduced by discharging the abdominal veins, by means of leeches applied to the anus, the bowels will readily respond to purgatives.

**BLOODLETTING.**—Bloodletting often proves useful in chronic affections of the skin by increasing the action of specific remedies. Thus in lepra and psoriasis, when arsenic and sulphur have failed to do good, although given in doses much larger than usually considered safe, the abstraction of blood, by increasing the activity of the absorbents, restores the power of these agents, the doses of which must be greatly diminished. A like acceleration may be observed from bleeding when alkalis are losing their effect in eczema. He relates a case of well marked œdema in which he ordered the abstraction of six ounces of blood, a bran bath, and liquid potash, three times a day; and the following day he had to apologize to his class for the absence of most of the characteristics of the disease. And another of extensive lichen, in which no benefit was received from the emollient baths of bran and linseed oil, until the patient was bled, when these simple agents became quite sufficient to effect a cure.