

of the foot on stroking the sole. The right triceps was diminished.

*Motility.*—There was weakness with atrophy of the extensors of the third, fourth and fifth digits of the right hand to an extreme degree. The opposition of the thumb was not quite so weak. The grasp of the hand and flexion of the wrist were relatively stronger. The abduction of the wrist was strong, the adduction of the fingers was quite weak. There was no other distinguishable weakness of the forearm.

*Sensibility.*—He complained of a perpetual tingling down the right leg, which occurred with each beat of the heart, night and day, except during sleep. But there was no difference on the two sides in the perception of coolness and warmth and the sense of attitudes was now normal, although he stated that for two months he was unable to recognize the position of his limbs. But I could not satisfy myself that he really felt less intensely, as he alleged, on the right leg when stimulated by the tuning fork and the point of a pin; so that this hypoaesthesia might have been suggested during my examination. A suspicion of its psychogenic nature was corroborated when I found that although he declared he would sway when he closed his eyes, he did not actually do so when his balance was deprived of the assistance of his vision while I pretended to be examining his eyes.

*Diagnosis and Prognosis.*—The abnormalities of the reflexes, motility and subjective sensibility, as well as the slow speech and difficult retention are due to organic changes, very probably, hæmatomylic resulting from the blow on the head in diving. They are not amenable to treatment but they are by no means incapacitating; for even the grasp of the right hand was fair and the right thumb could be opposed so that he could handle a tool. The prognosis as to efficiency was therefore good.

*Treatment.*—Accordingly, the organic nature of part of his difficulty was explained to him; he was also told that the disease was not progressive, and would not be exaggerated by work, which would, on the contrary, improve him in every way, and very likely rid him of his heavy feelings. I recommended him, therefore, to begin work, and behave as if he were quite as well. This he did, with the result that he continues at work, and is in excellent condition at the time of writing, six months later.

No commentary should be needed to show that this boy's idleness proceeded not from actual disability but from the ideas which he and his people held regarding his condition. He was the victim of a false fixed idea that he was gravely ill, and this suggestion was the cause of his incapacity when I saw him, while the organic destruction of the central nervous system had at that time no direct significance in that respect.