

DR. R. P. HOWARD said he had three cases of Locomotor Ataxia at present. In two, there is great contraction of the pupils—one a gentleman, the other a lady. The gentleman has myosis of both eyes, but greater in one. In the third case the pupils differ, there is good vision in one eye, DR. HOWARD remarked that a contracted pupil should make one look out for Tabes. There is great frequency of pulse in one gentleman and in the lady. The gentleman took Hyoscinamin for a long time under Dr. Seguin, with but little effect. DR. HOWARD said a late theory was that this disease was caused by functional excess of a sensory nerve, and that sexual excess was said to lead to it. DR. HOWARD also remarked that out of many cases which he has seen, one only suffered from gastric crisis. Had used the electric brush in the case of the lady, with the result of restoring feeling in some parts of the skin, otherwise no improvement followed.

DR. HENRY HOWARD had used the electric brush for anæsthesia with good effect where there was absence of motor paralysis.

*Lawson Tait's Operation.*—DR. ARMSTRONG exhibited the ovaries and tubes removed by him, a couple of days previous, from a lady, aged 22, who had suffered for three years from pelvic pain. She had menstruation for fourteen days for the past year, suffering much each time; this quite unfitted her for work, and made life miserable. Both ovaries were prolapsed. Patient doing well. The ovaries were both a good deal enlarged.

*Meeting held, December 28th, 1883.*

THE PRESIDENT, DR. RODGEF, in the chair.

DR. WOOD read a paper on "Ether in Obstetrics."

This paper will be found among our original Communications.

Dr. Campbell said that during the past twenty years he has used anæsthetics very little; does not think it wise to give chloroform for hours, as some do; has noticed that the uterus does not regain its power as promptly when this is done. He saw an objection to ether in its smell and its being so irritating to the eye. Dr. Campbell believes the mental condition has much to do with the immunity

from deaths with chloroform at this time. The woman approaches the period for delivery without fear, knowing so many of her friends have safely passed over this trouble, whereas the person to be operated on by the surgeon has a dread, often for a long time before.

Dr. Reed remarked that if there were no deaths recorded from chloroform during labor then chloroform must be better than ether, as it has all the advantages without the objections. The statistics stood thus with regard to mortality: chloroform 1 in 3 thousand, ether 1 in 30 thousand, and gas 1 in 50 thousand.

Dr. Smith believes in easing a woman as much as possible, and has used and will use even for hours, if necessary, an anæsthetic composed of alcohol one, chloroform two, and ether three parts; has never seen flooding follow its use, and feels safe to allow a nurse to give it.

Dr. Trenholme has only used chloroform during labor. With regard to the use of anæsthetics during labor is now more opposed than ever. When called to a woman, and finding the first pains irritable and the os thick and firm, instead of using an anæsthetic for hours he administers 45 minims of laudanum; this gives ease from pain and find they don't recur for a week or even a month, as often these are cases of false pains. Was sent for by a woman who said she had come to full term, but on examining found the above conditions present, gave her 45 m. laudanum; pains did not return for a month, when found her as before; gave another 45 m. laudanum,—she went on for another month, when he was sent for again, and as the indications were present wanted to give another dose, but the woman said she had carried the child for eleven months, and would not carry it a year for anyone. She was delivered two or three days later. Dr. Trenholme said that very tedious long labors left the woman more prone to post-partem hemorrhage. He also remarked that the heart was more fatty during gestation, which would look as if anæsthetics ought to be dangerous in obstetrics.

Dr. Hy. Howard said that in his younger days anæsthetics were not known, and of course not used in midwifery cases, but that in Ireland the pains of labor were often lessened by taking a good dose of whiskey punch, he never saw harm come from it.