

most such cases arise from over-exertion and exposure of some kind, we must, in addition to the treatment by drugs, enjoin on our patients the importance of giving rest to the diseased parts, and of improving the general tone of the system by such changes of climate, occupation or amusement as may seem best suited to each case. The mixed mercurial and iodide treatment has given good results in some cases where it was not possible to trace any syphilis.

Various forms of electricity have been tried and highly recommended by some. The faradocutaneous brush has been especially extolled. In my practice electricity has not given any permanent beneficial result.

Ergot is recommended by many, and is undeniably of use during the earlier stages where the patient is troubled with hyperesthesia, lightning-like pains, etc., but there cannot be a doubt about the danger of continuing its administration in large doses; it does produce a similar disease and it may ameliorate the pains by producing or increasing the sclerosis.

Believing as I do that so many cases of tabes depend upon syphilis, or at least upon a pre-existing syphilitic state, I advise a prolonged course of anti-syphilitic treatment, and while we expect to gain the most lasting benefit in these cases from prolonged mercurial treatment, we must not lose sight of the fact that mercury itself is capable of being directly injurious to the nerve centres. Some assert that they never have been able to observe any benefit from pushing mercury or the iodides, whilst others are just as confident of their benefit.

My strong conviction is that where the disease is of syphilitic origin, large and continued doses of the iodides will give greater relief than any other plan of treatment.

I might mention a case of this class which was rather peculiar, and which seemed to me to illustrate the benefit of large doses of iodides.

E. P., a well developed man, aged 38. After a course of treatment at the Hot Springs of Arkansas for the cure of his syphilis, came here and indulged freely in alcoholics in the autumn. He thought his pains and ataxic symptoms were due to malaria or the cold weather. He could not stand alone with his eyes shut. Though his muscles were firm he tired easily,

and could not walk across the room without taking a very erratic course. He lifted his feet too high and planted them down with a jerk. He could eat well, but his sense of taste was dull. He had a hesitancy in urinating.

The tendon reflexes, though not absent, were not well marked. The iris responded feebly to light, and his speech was thick. He suffered severely from the lightning-like pains, and the belt sensation was present. Ptosis existed on one side only. I plied him freely with the iodides, commencing with 15 grs. of pot. iod., and increasing to more than double that quantity four times a day, combining this with a general tonic treatment and judicious regimen. By careful watchings he was induced to keep this treatment up, and in about a month he was comparatively well.

I then lost sight of him for a month, during which time he had put himself through a course of treatment by "compound oxygen" with the result of having a return of all his old symptoms with increased severity.

Again I plied him with the iodides with good results until he was well enough to go out of town and enjoy the benefits of a residence in the country.

After about a year I saw him in consultation with another physician under whose care he was then, who had taxed the resources of the pharmacopæia for the relief of the old symptoms. I recounted my experience with the case, and again advised pushing the iodides to excess. I have not heard the result of the treatment, but a short time ago saw the patient on the street walking better than he did two years ago. This case seemed to me to respond to the iodides in very large doses only, but relapsed quickly on their withdrawal.

I must not fail to mention Lee's baths as a very suitable way of giving mercury, but in order to obtain the best results the patient must be under strict rules, must rest in the house in an evenly warmed temperature, must take suitable regimen and freshly infused sarsaparilla in large doses.

Before closing I must draw your attention to the fact that though the disease is dreaded to such an extent, and though the popular idea of it is so repugnant and depressing, many victims