

come under my care since the one reported above, and which have been under treatment for four and three weeks respectively. The pain in the head and back was always relieved by cupping, and the condition of the patient improved generally, at least for the time. But these patients still remain in a low, weak sort of typhoid condition, which has been met with, I understand, in the practice of other gentlemen, and as to the treatment of which, I would like to hear an expression of opinion. I have also met with some patients suffering from such symptoms as vomiting, severe pains in the head and back, with stiffness of the neck, pain in the bowels, and varying differences in the size of the pupils, and others which seemed to me to indicate a mild attack of this disease, but which passed away on the administration of mercury, bromid and iodid of potass, with the application of cups to back of neck and spine and cold to these parts and the head.

1 Beaver Hall Terrace, May 16, 1873.

*Two years and a half in a London General Hospital.* By G. F. SLACK, B.A., C.M., M.D., M.R.C.S. Eng., late House Surgeon, Charing Cross Hospital, London.

Syphilitic affections of the tongue come very frequently under notice in London. Such cases, as a rule, occur in middle-aged or old people belonging to that class, or I might almost say race, who spend all their days and many of their nights in the open air, eating little and at irregular times, and drinking whenever an opportunity offers of their doing so. They are poorly clad and exposed to all sorts of weather, contract syphilis and undergo little or no treatment for it, until they are reduced to such a deplorable condition that they are taken into some hospital out of sheer pity. Such cases yield very slowly to treatment. Good food, beer, cleanliness, etc., being the chief requirements, followed by a course of iodide of potassium, in gradually increasing doses, or mercury. In some of these cases which have been neglected and the disease allowed to run its course unchecked, there is some difficulty in deciding whether syphilis has produced the mischief, whether the patient is suffering from malignant disease of the tongue, whether the two affections may co-exist, or whether the one may follow the other. Of this I am certain, that I saw two or three cases of long-standing disease of the tongue, the exact nature and cause of which it took several weeks of careful observation to determine, and even then there was some doubt expressed. These cases were ex-

amined and treated by gentlemen who had had many years of hospital practice, and, consequently, during that time, an immense number of cases of all kinds had passed through their hands. With regard to cases of malignant disease of the tongue; I had the opportunity of seeing a good many operated on and watching the after treatment and results. When the operation is performed with care and before the disease has extended to any great extent, a fair proportion of cases recovered, some completely, others were relieved for a time. Generally, a many-stranded wire ecraseur was used. Sometimes a single wire: The following cases are examples:—

*Case 1.*—A thin, delicate woman, aged 62, was sent into hospital for operation. On the right side of the tongue, near the root, there was a red nodular growth about the size of a hazel nut, no teeth on that side. She had suffered very little pain and had only noticed it about a month before. One gland beneath the jaw on the right side was enlarged. General health fair. The diseased portion was removed in the following manner: an incision was made in the median line from the symphysis to the hyoid bone, and another joining it along the ramus of the jaw. The knife was then passed beneath the tongue and out of this opening, thus making a  $\vee$  shaped flap. Through the opening thus made, the tongue was dragged out with a pair of strong forceps, a many-stranded wire ecraseur passed over it, and the greater portion of it slowly removed. The bleeding was very slight and lasted only a few minutes. The case went on favorably for five or six days, when she had a slight attack of facial erysipelas, from which she recovered in a few days and was able to eat fish, sit up the greater part of the day, and talk pretty distinctly. The opening along the ramus of the jaw remained open, discharging slightly for some time. The tongue, or rather what remained of it, assumed a healthy appearance, and a month after the operation she left the hospital.

*Case 2.*—A man about 50 years of age, stout and healthy, was admitted with a growth in the middle of the tongue, near the tip. It had been coming on gradually, gave him a great deal of pain, especially when handled, and prevented him taking sufficient solid food. He had suffered from an attack of syphilis some years previously, but a long course of mercury, iodide of potassium, and nourishing food, seemed only to have had the effect of arresting the progress, not of removing the growth, so that, as the man wanted to get back to work, it was decided to remove the unhealthy portion of the tongue, which was easily done by slipping an ecraseur over it.