

AN ACCOUNT OF A CASE OF INTERMITTENT EPIDEMIC CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

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MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN:—It is with considerable hesitation that I venture to come before you with the report of a single case of disease. Cases of this kind appear to be exceedingly rare, as Niemeyer mentions having seen only one case in his large experience, and this one of the third form of Hirsch. The disease in question is classed by Niemeyer, Ziemssen, J. Netten Radcliffe and Williams as the *intermittent* form of epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis. Williams, in his excellent work on continued fevers, very briefly reports one case from Ziemssen. It does not appear to me that the case which I am about to report belongs strictly to any of the forms mentioned. It is certainly not epidemic. There was spinal complication, but of a mild form. The length and completeness of the intermissions are unlike any historical account of the disease I have been able to find. Niemeyer says: "Lastly, I must mention the occasionally intermittent course of the disease. I have only seen one case. Hirsch distinguishes three forms of the intermittent course. In the first, it only occurs in the first stage; one or more attacks of evident premonitory symptoms pass away, but another follows, which is immediately succeeded by the outbreak of the disease. In the second form, there is a sudden remission of the symptoms; these again grow worse the next day, and occasionally this alternation occurs several times, usually with a more or less quotidian type. In the third form, which is by far the most frequent (to which my case belonged), perfect intermissions are seen during convalescence. The symptoms remaining after the disease, particularly headache and stiff neck, regularly increase very considerably for some time, usually with a quotidian type, while in the interval the patient feels quite comfortable." Ziemssen has seen more of this class of cases than probably any author mentioned. The following case, transcribed from his work by Williams, is so brief that a true view of the disease is scarcely obtained: