

siders, however, that the stretching of the sciatics and crurals will always remain one of our most valuable means in relieving patients from the terrible pains which are often present in this disease.

As to the cause of locomotor ataxia, it is well known that Erb, Gowers and others have recently published statistics which showed that in about 50 per cent of cases there was a distinct history of syphilis. Weiss of Vienna, who has carefully examined over 100 cases, could only find a syphilitic history in about 10 per cent—a per centage not higher than could be found in 100 healthy persons. Weiss maintains that exposure to wet and cold is the great cause of tabes dorsalis. After the short campaign of 1866, there were many cases of locomotor ataxia in the Austrian army. In one regiment, as many as ten cases occurred. This is attributed to the fact that they suffered great privations from lying night after night on the wet ground. It would be very instructive if the statistics of the Canadian cases could be collected. The writer is of the opinion that it would be found that raftsmen would head the list. If syphilis was a direct cause of locomotor ataxia, we would expect some benefit from anti-syphilitic treatment. It has, however, been shown that neither mercury nor iodide of potassium have any beneficial influence over it.

In Vienna, electricity is considered to be the best means we at present possess in retarding the progress of this disease. It is even asserted by a few that a cure is at times possible. The direct application of the galvanic current to the spinal cord is the method usually employed; one pole being applied to the nape of the neck, and the other over the spine, in the lumbar region. Strong currents of long duration should be avoided. Daily sittings of from 3 to 5 minutes' duration are recommended by both Benedikt and Weiss. To treat this, or, in fact, any other disease, by electricity in a scientific manner, it is absolutely necessary that the physician should make use of a good galvanometer. Different persons possess greatly different powers of resistance to the electrical current, and it is only by employing the galvanometer that this resistance can be measured. At the