

12th.—Does not appear so collected, and has greater difficulty in recalling words.

14th.—No change.

17th.—Is up. Complains of a throbbing pain in head. From this time on he progressed favorably, talked freely, but with a little hesitancy. Left Hospital October 5th.

Feb. 15th.—I have seen this patient several times through the winter, he still has a somewhat hesitating speech and seems queer. Says his memory is bad, and he often finds difficulty in getting the right words to express his ideas. He gives an account of attacks of temporary loss of consciousness, apparently of the nature of "petit mal."

This is a case of more than ordinary interest. There must have been some temporary interference with the speech centre and also with the integrity of the motor tract. We cannot suppose this to have been due to any gross lesion of these parts, else the recovery would not have been so rapid, but more probably to some impairment of their functional activity owing to a deranged blood supply. In this view we suppose a small extravasation to have taken place, or a thrombus to have formed in some vessel, causing a slight lesion in the neighborhood of the anterior convolutions of the Island of Reil on the left side, not directly involving either the speech centre or the motor tract, but doing so indirectly or temporarily by pressure, or a collateral hyperæmia.

The hemiplegia may possibly have been caused by the rupture of a small vessel during the struggles attending the ætherization. In the discussion upon this paper a case was mentioned which occurred some years ago in this city, of an old man who was ætherized for a cataract operation. He seemed to "go off" nicely, and the extraction was made, but the patient could not be roused from the heavy soporose condition into which he had fallen, and died the same night. At the autopsy an apoplectic clot was found in the brain.

In an article on the administration of æther in the proceedings of the King's County Medical Society for October, 1879, Dr. H. F. Williams mentions a case of mastoid disease in which æther