

side particularly, is a common associate. The late Broca, of Paris, "from that fact chiefly located the seat of articulate language" in the third left frontal convolution. This idea is also carefully received and recorded by Austin Flint, DaCosta and Reynolds. Dr. Gall, one of the original observers on this point, inclined to the belief that the faculty of speech had its place in those portions of the anterior lobes of the brain which lie on the supra-orbital plates. MM. Dax, Bouillaud, Jackson and Trousseau, have each most carefully examined into this subject, and still we observe, as in all matters of science, considerable uncertainty and diversity of opinion, so far as the precise question of locality is concerned, as well as that of right or left side. The facts of side and locality, though in the aggregate, common in one direction, have well defined exceptions, and thus we observe how difficult it becomes to advance any absolute laws, in connection with the great motive nervous power which regulates the system.

In connection with the cases of aphasia at present noted, there are a few points of additional interest to which I shall briefly refer. In the primary attack of Case I., the onset was sudden, in fact, almost instantaneous, but the second attack was only acute, occupying some hours in its development.

Case III., subacute, and marked in the first week of the general illness. These divisions, with the exception of the chronic form, correspond very nearly with the defined classification of Gowers in connection with diseases of the spinal cord, and indicative of some vascular, inflammatory, or degenerative condition. Gowers considers a lesion of sudden occurrence developing symptoms in the course of a few minutes, to be generally vascular in character. In the acute and subacute forms, the symptoms develop more slowly, from a few hours to a few days, and the acute and subacute varieties, from a few hours or a few days to a week or two. Chronic inflammatory causes extend into a few weeks or a few months. It is considered that the conditions which favour hæmorrhage, are of far less diagnostic value, with regard to the spinal cord, than the brain.

A fourth case of aphasia, in a gentleman aged 54 years, came under observation in February last, associated with hemiplegia, and the result of syphilitic disease, in which both

the motor and sensory nerves were affected. More than likely the growth of syphilomata, springing from the connective tissue of the membranes, or tissue about the basal convolutions of the brain was the cause of the attack. "In cases of degenerative neural disease, it does not appear that the anatomical process presents any recognizable difference from that which occurs as a result of other causes. (Gowers on the cord, p. 68.)" He considers that rapid improvement of the disease, under potass iodide or mercury is strongly corroborative as to the diagnosis of syphilitic disease. Still there are conditions such as neural changes, softening, degeneration, etc., states of the nervous system reached not readily by medicinal treatment. Considering the manner in which defective brain power or nerve power operates on the functions of the system locally and generally, it appears prudent in all such cases to inquire into the conditions of muscular nutrition and irritability, as in the examination of the spinal cord; how various symptoms developed; and what were the most likely causes of their production? Daily practice points out how exceedingly difficult it is, occasionally, to decide between functional diseases, depending upon transitory impairment of the functions of the cord itself and the central functions. So also, many states of the brain are complex and difficult to determine either as to cause or precise character. From these varied considerations, it is evident the method to be followed, and the various signs necessary to be inquired into, to arrive at an approach to accurate diagnosis in cases of aphasia are very considerable, and are thus briefly put by Jaccond, *Gaz. Hebdom.*, 1865. "The mobility of the tongue; the articulation of sounds; the preservation or absence of the ability to read mentally; of memory of words; of ability to write, and lastly, the gauging of the intellectual condition."

Difficulties may arise to obscure diagnosis, but such points made out, always will afford some clue to the character of this interesting disease, concerning which I have endeavored to bring together a few facts.

Ottawa, May 12th, 1881.

ANOTHER case of nephrectomy in a child, with suppurating and cystic kidney, was performed recently at the Evelina Hospital, New York, by Mr. Morratt Baker. The child was at last accounts, doing well.