

A young man of forty-four had been affected with tabes for six years. Specific disease had preceded the onset by some four years. The course of the trouble for the first two years was slowly progressive. He had been treated at different times, by Sir William Gowers and Dr. Buzzard of London, and Marie and Dejerine of Paris, but the disease had steadily progressed, till, at the end of the fourth year of the trouble, he had become more or less paraplegic and bedridden. When it was necessary for him to go out and enjoy the fresh air, he had to be taken in a bath chair or carriage.

On one occasion while returning from the park, in his bath chair, he suddenly remembered that he had invited some friends to dine that evening, but had forgotten to order cigars. He requested his manservant to leave him at the tradesman's entrance to the flats, where he was residing, and run round to the neighbouring block for the cigars. Ten minutes should have been sufficient for this, but twenty minutes elapsed, without a reappearance of his attendant. Becoming annoyed at the delay, and having been left alone so long, he finally decided to try and get up to his room unaided. With great difficulty he managed to get out of the bath chair and crawled along by holding on to the different neighbouring objects, and in this manner reached the elevator. Fortunately the elevator was on the level of the basement, the attendant being on the entrance floor above. The patient after considerable difficulty managed to seat himself on the elevator and was in the act of drawing his legs in when the lift started to ascend in response to a call. Due to this unexpected occurrence, the patient momentarily became paralyzed, so that he could not move his legs at all. Up went the elevator, and the patient saw that he would be crushed to death unless he became able to draw his legs in, or throw himself to the floor of the basement. He decided that the latter would be the best procedure, even though he broke his legs in so doing. He threw himself off and landed upon his feet. From that day he has been able to walk. Of course he is suffering from tabes still, and has to use a stick, but his paraplegic condition was largely one of functional type. Had this accident not occurred, probably the patient's disease would have gone on advancing. His ability to move about and exercise himself, and the good results he was able to derive, mentally and physically, from mingling with others, certainly helped him considerably. Confinement to his couch, and the absence of social intercourse would have reacted on his physical condition, and the disease would in all likelihood have gone on progressing. Such instances go to show how advisable it is to pay