

merely as the expression and representative of internal local lesions, the symptoms are not in exact proportion to the lesions, nor are they all explicable by them; hence it is necessary to admit a constitutional as well as a local element of the disease, which often becomes the predominant one, just as in eruptive and typhoid fevers, the most fatal cases are those in which death occurs at so early a stage, through the violence of the constitutional element, that the local lesion remains incomplete, or is entirely undeveloped. It is therefore highly probable that the *materies morbi* exerts its primary action upon the blood affecting the cerebro-spinal meninges, and for which it seems to have a special affinity.

In the more severe form of the disorder as it prevailed here a large number of the cases proved fatal, death generally resulting within the first week, and in a few cases within a few hours of the attack. In some of those who recovered, convalescence was tedious and protracted, and occasional relapses took place. In the epidemic witnessed by Tourdes, 60 per cent. proved fatal and the same proportion is given in the epidemic which prevailed in Alabama in 1848. In the more recent epidemics this percentage has considerably diminished it is said, and it may be that the disease is becoming somewhat modified and presenting a less malignant type than formerly. The treatment adopted was of course based upon general principles, different therapeutical measures being employed with reference to the indications in individual cases. Depletion to any extent was not employed, not even purgatives, for which latter, according to accumulated evidence, there is no room in this disease. Quinine, with small doses of calomel, has acted beneficially as a palliative without apparently exercising any curative effect. Bromide of Potassium was largely used and in many cases was of undoubted benefit. Cold persistently applied to the head and spine in the early or forming stage is undoubtedly of great benefit and generally grateful to the patient; counter-irritation by means of a blister or the croton oil liniment, with revulsive applications to the extremities, by means of sinapisms, formed the basis of the treatment adopted; stimulants were freely used when called for, as in all diseases tending to death by asthenia.