

parts of the cervical and lumbar regions caused some shooting pains through the head and about the pelvis respectively. He had indulged in sexual intercourse from the age of 12, he said, lately very excessively.

A few years ago, a young barrister consulted me for pain in the left chest above the nipple, and a troublesome dry cough that he had had for some time, and for which much medicine had been prescribed. Careful examination revealed nothing amiss with the lungs, but pressure over the third dorsal spine caused pain to shoot through the affected part of the chest, and instantly caused him to cough; both pain and cough were produced as often as pressure was renewed. A small blister over the tender process promptly and permanently relieved both symptoms. No medicines were given, but he was advised to take a generous diet and to exercise freely in the open air. In 1886, I met with similar phenomena in a boy, aged 12, in whom there was also a coated tongue and loss of appetite. Medicines were given to improve digestion, and counter-irritants applied to the chest; but with little benefit. A subsequent examination showed the first and second dorsal spinous processes to be tender; a small blister was applied, the former treatment being continued, and the relief was prompt and complete. In a woman whom I saw last week, complaining of dyspnoea and præcordial oppression, pressure over the mid-dorsal region almost took her breath away and greatly excited her. There was probably a strongly hysterical tendency in this case. She was ordered a blister to the spine, and Easton's syrup as a stomachic and general tonic. With what effect remains to be seen.

A few years ago, an Irish physician writing on this subject said, that, with few exceptions, the spinous processes of the third and fourth dorsal vertebrae are tender to pressure in all persons. He had found them so, he said, in an examination of a large number of persons, including many of the Irish constabulary force. To test the truth of this statement, I have examined a great many persons of various ages and circumstances, including many medical students, with almost universal negative results, only occasionally was a case met with in which there was very slight tenderness.

I have met with a large number of cases in which the chief symptoms of dorsal tenderness was nausea and, sometimes, vomiting, both being relieved by counter-irritation to the tender points. In cases of persistent vomiting in which the spines are not tender, much benefit is often obtained by the application to the dorsal region of the spinal bag filled with either ice or water as hot as can be borne, the latter usually being most agreeable to the patient.

I have met with a larger proportion of cases in which tenderness was confined to the lumbar region than is given by most of the authorities, and some of them of great interest. A few days ago, a man applied at the Toronto Dispensary complaining of pain in the left thigh and leg as low as the middle of the calf. Walking caused so much pain that he was quite lame, and had to use a stick. He had used a liniment of turpentine and croton oil freely to the thigh and leg, causing general redness with a plentiful crop of pustules, but without obtaining any relief. There was little, if any, tenderness over the sciatic nerve, but pressure over the region of the last lumbar vertebrae caused intense pain, which shot down to the middle of the calf. This was evidently a case of so-called spinal irritation. Sciatica is probably nearly always due to inflammation of the sheath and, sometimes, the interstitial tissue of the sciatic nerve, and is not characterized by tenderness over the spinous processes of the lumbar vertebrae.

The following case was under my care a few years ago: A. M., æt 30, a lumber merchant, of fair health, but apt to magnify unduly any ailment. Pain about the pelvis gradually developed. Any jolting, as riding over a rough road, or jumping down off a pile of lumber, which he had occasion to do frequently, caused very sharp pain. There was often irritability of the bladder, but the urine was normal; with the exception of the urine the symptoms were exactly those usually met with in vesical calculus. The bladder was sounded for stone with negative results, first by myself, and afterwards by a leading surgeon, who gave it as his opinion that the case was one of hypochondriasis. Next day I examined the spine and found that pressure over the lower lumbar region sent darting pains through the bladder, perineum, glans penis, etc.,