

and this accounts for the marvellous cures reported as following the application of the new and extraordinary methods of treatment, such as faith cure, visits to shrines, laying on of hands, &c. Many of the diseases thus healed being those of the imagination are cured by imagination. Again, certain operations on the eye have relieved nervous symptoms and trephining the skull without further procedure has temporarily cured epilepsy. This would explain the disappearance of pain and tenderness after exploratory incision, but not the disappearance of tumours or alterations in temperature, so other causes must be looked for, such as those suggested by Dr. White, viz., relief of tension, reflex action, &c, or perhaps some causes working in ways mysterious, and of which we know nothing, but to which we give such names as *altered nutrition, trophic disturbance, nervous influence, &c., &c.* No doubt these cases in time will receive suitable explanation, but at present we are in the dark as regards them. In many cases such symptoms as pain and tenderness with general discomfort may be due to adhesions which at the time of the operation are released; for instance in the case I reported above, the omentum was adherent to the liver, and its release may have banished the pain and tenderness. In many cases of nephralgia exploratory incision has caused relief. I myself have had several such cases, but in every case the kidney was more than usually movable, and now I think the explanation is generally accepted that in cases of nephralgia, where no calculus is found, the cause of the pain is due to twisting of the ureter of a more than usually movable kidney, and that operation tends to fix the kidney in place.

No doubt many of you here will be able to add to the cases I have narrated, and perhaps some of you may be able to explain them more satisfactorily than the reader of the paper.