

PARALYSIS AGITANS.*

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Gentlemen.—This patient, Mr. J. L., aged 46 years; nativity, Scotland; occupation, coal miner; complains of, on admission, general malaise and weakness, especially in his legs. He says he is nervous all the time, and that his sleep is very much disturbed by the nervousness and the constant muscular contractions of his legs.

Family History.—Parents are both dead. The mother died during childbirth, and the cause of the father's death he does not know. He has one sister and three brothers living and in good health, but has no knowledge of his grandparents and other kin.

Previous Personal History.—As a child he had measles, whooping-cough and quinsy on several occasions. Since then he has never been ill enough to compel him to remain in bed. He denies venereal diseases.

Social History.—He is married and is the father of six children. Wife and children are in good health. As a miner he is exposed to wet and draughts of cold air.

Habits.—For fifteen years he drank alcoholic beverages to excess; at times he would get on a spree and remain drunk for two weeks. However, for the past three years he has not indulged at all. He smokes tobacco excessively, and drinks a great deal of coffee.

Present Illness.—During the past year he noticed that he was gradually losing in strength. Six months ago he began to get very tired while at work, and often was obliged to sit down during the day. Sometimes when he did straining work and sat down to rest every muscle in his body would be in a state of tremor. Since the 15th of January, 1906, he has not been able to work owing to his general weakness, especially in the back and legs. He suffers no pain at all.

Physical Signs.—General examination shows a male five feet five inches tall, weighs 120 pounds, has gray hair, blue eyes, and apparently looks to be sixty-five years old. The skin over his body is moist and warm to the touch; over the knees and the sacrum are a few white, velvety, punched-out scars. The inguinal and axillary glands are enlarged and hard; the reflexes are normal, except that the patellar is slightly exaggerated in both limbs; the eyes respond to light and distance; the ears, nose and mouth are normal; the lungs apparently are in good condition; the heart is nor-

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