

ON THE DIAGNOSIS OF LOCOMOTOR ATAXY.—Dr. Jonathan Huchinson in an able lecture, (*Med. Press. & Cir.*) on the "Surgeon's share in Locomotor Ataxy," after combating the prevailing doctrine that ataxy is simply a sclerosis of the posterior columns of the spinal cord, gives the following symptoms as aids to diagnosis. Let me, he says, disturb your faith in the cardinal symptom, that the patient is unable to steady himself when his eyes are shut, for though it is a critical symptom, it is by no means present in all cases, and is only one amongst a very large group of very interesting defects and failures in nerve function, which go to make up this exceedingly interesting and variable disease. A very useful question to put to a patient is, as to whether he can stand over the wash-hand basin without assistance during his ablutions, that is, without using his left hand to steady himself, if he can then he is not ataxic, or but slightly so. Next you have to investigate the Argyle Robertson phenomena, which is simply this, that the patient has a pupil which is small and incapable, or almost incapable, of dilatation, when the impulse of light on the retina is withdrawn, so that at first you might be tempted to record the fact that the patient had motionless pupils; they are simply in a condition they ought to be, when exposed to a full light. But if you try him at accommodation, and tell him suddenly to look at some small object and then at the sky, it will be found that when he converges his eyes on some close object, then his pupils manifest the power of contracting a little more, and when he looks at a distant object, his pupils will become a little, a trifle larger again, still the power of dilatation is very defective. Then, next in order, are the peculiar pains in the limbs, generally described as gnawing or rheumatic pains. Patients not infrequently come under the care of the surgeon, when these pains occur about the bladder and rectum, with the so-called "pelvic ache." To sum up the chief diagnostic symptoms, we have *ophthalmoplegia, internum* or *externum*, the *gastric crises*, *retention of urine*, and *disturbance of the powers of defecation*, then *ulcus pedis perforans*, *amaurosis*, *Charcot's joints*, *pelvic aches*, and lastly *herpes*. Ophthalmoplegia internum is due to paralysis of the nerves governing the intrinsic muscles of the eye, seen in the Argyle Robertson phenomenon. Ophthalmoplegia externum is due to defective action

of the oblique and recti muscles. When bladder troubles are present, the patient may allow his bladder to fill even above the umbilicus, yet he makes no complaint as under similar circumstances a patient with stricture would do. The *ulcus pedis perforans* has these peculiarities, that the part is first numb, then a corn forms which ulcerates and gets deeper, and it is notable that while a healthy person would be unable to stand upon the inflamed or ulcerated corn, the ataxic patient goes on standing on the ulcer till it proceeds to an unusual depth. The presence of herpes along the course of particular nerves with a tendency to become symmetrical, difficult to cure and frequently returning should create suspicion.

FATAL TEMPERATURES FOR BACILLI.—The following temperatures are given by Dr. Sternberg (*Med. Times*), as being the degrees of heat necessary to kill some of the more important of these organisms:

Typhoid bacillus.....	132.8°
Cholera bacillus of Koch.....	125.6°
Anthrax bacillus.....	129.2°
Tubercle bacillus.....	212°
Pneumococcus.....	136.4°
Staphylococcus p. aureus.....	136.4°
Streptococcus of erysipelas.....	129.2°
Micrococcus Pasteurii.....	140°

PERMANENT FEHLING'S SOLUTION.—Dr. McCulloch (*Brit. Med. Jour.*) gives the following as plain directions for the above fluid. Sol. A.:

R—Cupri sulph. (cryst.), . . . grs. 181
Aque, ad. $\frac{3}{4}$ vj.—M.

Sol. B.:

R—Rochelle salt, grs. 728
Caustic soda, grs. 400
Aque, ad. $\frac{3}{4}$ vj.—M.

When Fehling's solution is required, mix equal volumes of sols. A. and B.

POMADE FOR CUTANEOUS DISORDERS DURING PREGNANCY.—Monin, in *L'Union Médicale*, gives the following formula:

R—Zinc. oxid. pulv., grs. iij.
Hydrarg. ammoniat., grs. jss.
Ol. theobromi,
Ol. ricini, āā 3 ijs.
Ol. rosæ, gtt. x.—M.
Sig.—Apply to the face morning and night.