

Family history of phthisis and paralysis. For a long time he was subject to severe headaches accompanied by nausea, but he had been free for several years. Eight months before admission he had a sudden attack of unconsciousness which lasted, he thinks, about an hour. On recovery his memory was a blank, but there was no paralysis. He had no further seizure for two months, but at the end of that time, while in the fields, he found himself suddenly unable to remember the words he wanted, and had to use other words and signs in their place. This condition passed off in a few minutes, but returned several times during the next three months in much the same way. Five months after the first attack he again had one in which he became unconscious. During the three months preceding admission he thought that he had not lost consciousness in any attack, but he had a great many in which he became aphasic. He had had as many as twelve in one day, and at other times had gone several weeks without. He had twice frothed at the mouth during his attacks ; he had often had buzzing in his ears before them, and had occasionally had twitching in some of his limbs afterwards.

His condition on admission was as follows :—He was a man of large frame with a reddish complexion and moderate muscular development. He had a slight cough, and there were signs of incipient phthisis in his right lung and bacilli in his sputum. He suffered from diarrhoea and felt weak. He had lost some weight but did not look at all emaciated. Soon after admission he had one of his attacks, of which I give an account obtained partly from himself, partly from the nurse, and partly from personal observation :—The patient was talking to the man in the next bed when he felt a peculiar full feeling in his stomach. This travelled up his chest, around to the back of his head, and up over the vault to his forehead. When it reached his forehead he became unable to speak.

His neighbour heard him say, what sounded like two words indistinctly mumbled, and then he turned over on his side, made a grunting noise and beckoned to the nurse. He then went through the movements of writing on his hand. As he told me