

years by paroxysmal twinges of darting and deep pain, chiefly in the lower limbs, also pin pricks in the scalp and intercostal pains with cold feelings in legs, and occasional hot flushes. Symptoms lasted for a few days every week or so. Attacks of burning at the neck of the bladder, with imperious desire to urinate, were particularly troublesome. The patient had consulted several English neurologists, who inclined to attribute his symptoms to fear, for they found no objective signs, although he had contracted syphilis nine years before. Diarrhoea and depression had prevented him taking mercury by the mouth. A four months course of inunction, when the pains began, five years after the chancre, had produced no improvement.*

Treatment directed to the bladder produced no improvement. Treatment by vaccines for two years was inefficacious.

I urged the patient, who was a medical man, to take a course of injections, and have the cerebro-spinal fluid examined. The lumbar puncture showed an apparently normal fluid, but produced severe vomiting and vertigo.

However, the patient injected a twelfth of a grain of perchloride of mercury every other day, and soon doubled the dose. In a few months the pains had practically disappeared, although he continued working hard, and he now has been free for six months, with only an occasional reminder. He writes: "It has made me a different man, and changed me from self-absorption into a normal being; not that I showed it outwardly I hope; but, perhaps, you cannot imagine, not having experienced it, the difference it makes to one's life having a constant shadow-like that unexpectedly removed."

A purin free diet, particularly at night, was recommended, and the very observant patient considers this almost as important as the injections. He found that late dinner was particularly apt to bring return of the pains.

In all cases it is of the greatest importance to prescribe regular physical exercise of a brisk kind, and periods of rest in the more aggravated cases. And regulation of the diet is of extreme importance. Twice, weekly, I prescribed a hot bath of about half an hour's duration, and do not permit it to be followed by the usual cold shower. I believe that in this way the kidney is preserved from the untoward effects of the mercury. Two months is, perhaps, long enough for an uninterrupted course of injection. If symptoms persist, then another course should commence after two weeks of recuperation from mercurialization.

* See also author. *Treatment of Parasyphilis of Nervous System* (Med Press and Circular, London, 1910.