

the spine, or any disagreeable sensation. He has had several seminal emissions, but they have been attended with natural feelings, and have not left him in the weak, nervous state as when they occurred some months ago. When I saw him yesterday, he complained of being weaker in the right leg than in the left, but not in any pain."

From this date he gradually and steadily improved—the issue was healed on the 4th of December, and now (January, 1853) is quite restored to health, the swelling has been entirely absorbed, and on both sides the loins are exactly the same size and shape. The nocturnal emissions have ceased; the urine is free from spermatozoa.

Feb. 7. He has all the appearance of health, and though still nervous about a relapse, he has no single sign indicating it.

He can bear any tapping on the spine from the top to the bottom. He has been out with his gun several hours during the day, and feels no weakness or unnatural sensation in the lower extremities.

The result of this case is highly satisfactory, and it must encourage you to pursue a similar plan of treatment in a case in which the pathology is similar; for I do not exaggerate when I say, that, if this disease had been further neglected, it must have terminated in complete paralysis of the lower extremities.

You must not confound this class of cases with another, and that of a wholly different origin, and in which the pathological condition is likewise different. I refer to a form of paraplegia, which comes on so insidiously that the sad victim of it is almost lost before he is aware that his health is seriously deranged. The disease is unaccompanied with pain, and it generally occurs to those whose attention is so drawn from themselves by active mental exertion that they often pay no attention to the first symptoms of disease, regarding them as trivial and unimportant. The cases we have just been analyzing had both an inflammatory origin: the cases to which I now direct your attention, are, I believe, anæmic from the first; they are cases of permanent spinal exhaustion, and you will see, therefore, the importance of a correct diagnosis, as the treatment which in the one case would cure your patient, in the other would aggravate his malady.

The disease commences with slight numbness of the lower extremities; this is followed by some loss of power; there is no pain in the spinal region at all; when you examine them, you may rap the spine from the neck to the rump, and the patient does not shrink. You may apply the hot sponge, but this elicits no evidence of disease of the vertebral column.

The history will assist you if you strike the right key. You find no evidence of your patient having ever received any injury to the spine. He cannot account for it at all. If, however, you ask him whether he has had much sexual intercourse, he will say, if he is honest, yes; but more probably he will not acknowledge to it immediately, but when you tax him directly with not having been satisfied with the caresses and charms of one siren but that two claimed him for their own, and that his animal pride would not allow him to stint them, he will generally acknowledge to the truth of the soft impeachment. If, on the other hand, he says indignantly that he never had connexion with a woman in his life, it is almost certain that he is the victim of that dread delusion—masturbation.

In the treatment of these cases you must avoid all antiphlogistic measures, for they only do harm. The first thing is to stop the exciting cause, and this is often, strange as it may seem, the most difficult part of your task.

I have known men of sound sense on all other matters, men whose judgment is of the greatest value to their client, such slaves to the venereal appetite and their own ideas of pleasure, that they would submit to any plan of treatment that you like to propose, yet would not abstain from copulation, or give up their ordinary exercise and mental employment. I remember once saying to a patient, who consulted me for this malady, and whom I found perfectly deaf to all my advice on this point, "The best thing that could happen to you would be to be pitched out of your phaeton, and to have a