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## AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS.\*

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THIS is one of the most rare of the organic diseases of the nervous system. As it affects both the cerebral and spinal segments of the motor tract widely, it is subject to much variation in its symptoms according as it affects one or the other segment primarily and chiefly. In the majority of cases the spinal neurones are affected earliest as shewn by paralysis with atrophy, the spastic symptoms developing later. In this case the cerebral neurone appeared to have been first affected as shown by the weakness and stiffness of the lower limbs.

George Rosenberg, aged 47, worked in cement works for the last few years and was therefore much exposed to wet and cold.

There is nothing of moment in his family history. His habits were good, and he had always been well.

His present illness began in September, 1901, with twitching and weakness in the thighs, and shortly afterward in the hands, forearms and arms; he was soon unable to work. The left leg became affected first, and later the right one. They both became stiff and heavy, and he found it difficult to get about. He has not walked since late in August, 1902. The hands and arms became weak without stiffness, and wasting in them became evident a few months after the symptoms began, and has increased rapidly, especially during the last few months.

Speech became affected early in the summer of 1902, and swallowing about the same time.

The following entry was made on admission to Toronto General Hospital:—

He is a large man. His expression is anxious and quite staring, owing to the wide palpebral fissures, but he has full power to close his eyes. The lower part of the face has little expression, and the movements are not free. He can close the lips but not purse them to whistle, nor hold them together while puffing out the cheeks. The movements of the tongue are awkward and it is protruded with difficulty. The

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