

roborates that assigned to it by experiments on the lower animals. It was also interesting to note when this part of the brain was exposed and irritated that it gave rise to the same kind of convulsion.

We give but one more of many instances, in this case an operation on account of paraplegia, caused by pressure on the spinal cord.

*Case of Paraplegia with Incontinence of Urine and Fæces, due to Connective Tissue Tumour at Seat of Angular Curvature of Spine, completely Cured by Removal of Tumour and Laminae of Vertebrae.*—In 1882 a boy, aged 9, came under observation, suffering from complete sensory and motor paraplegia, with incontinence of urine and fæces, which had existed for two years previously, but had been absolute during the last eighteen months. For three years he had had angular curvature of the spine, most marked between the fifth and seventh dorsal vertebrae, for which he had been treated by extension and plaster jackets. When seen by me the curvature had become fixed by ankylosis of the bodies of the vertebrae. Treatment by extension and plaster jackets was, however, tried again, under direct supervision, in the hope of amelioration. It proved futile. The limbs were livid and cold, affected with marked spastic rigidity and with wasting of the muscles. The symptoms exhibited pointed to irritation of and pressure on the spinal cord about the level of the sixth dorsal vertebra. The paralysis having existed slightly for two years and markedly for eight months, and showing no signs of amelioration under ordinary treatment, this operation was deemed expedient. Dr. Alex. Robertson saw this case and agreed in the hopelessness of any other procedure than operation. On May 9th, 1883 the laminae of the fifth, sixth, and seventh dorsal vertebrae were removed. There was no pulsation in the portion of the cord exposed. Between the theca and the bone there was found a fibrous neoplasm of one-eighth of an inch in thickness, which was firmly attached to the theca, and covered about two-thirds of its circumference. This was carefully dissected off. The cord was then able to expand backwards, and its pulsations, which up to this period were absent, began to show themselves, especially about the fifth dorsal. Twenty-four hours after the removal of the pressure the limbs had lost their livid colour, were distinctly warmer, the spastic rigidity had greatly lessened, the sense of tickling the soles had re-

turned, and that of touch had improved. The first return of movement was observed eight days after. Soon he had perfect control over his sphincters. Six months subsequently he was able to go about without support. Five years afterwards he walked three miles to pay me a visit. He attends school regularly, joins in all the games, including football, and he says he feels quite strong.

#### OBSTETRICS.

Opening Address of Section on Obstetric Medicine at British Medical Association Meeting.

If we were to judge from the many complimentary remarks which were made at Glasgow, regarding the position which Scotland holds in the history of the progress of Medicine during the present century, Scotchmen will be still more convinced than ever that they are the original people and that their language was spoken in Paradise "in the days o' auld lang syne." Said Prof. M. Madden, of Dublin, who delivered this opening address, "It is to Scotland and to the genius of her sons that the true success of obstetrics and gynaecology which we are here met to cultivate, owe their earliest development in Great Britain; and to a large extent their progress is traceable to the same source." The lecturer then traced from the works of Hous-ton and Smellie the work done up to the time of Simpson, Keith, Duncan, and to the present standing alongside of the able teachers of the Dublin School. The writer proceeded to indicate some of the progressive improvements of midwifery practice. "The prevalence of puerperal septicæmia by epidemic outbreaks, by which, in my earlier days, I have seen the crowded wards of a maternity hospital contaminated, has been largely diminished by the hygienic and antiseptic measures now adopted for its prevention; whilst, if septicæmia should still occur, we are now armed with more scientific means for the curative treatment of this disease, some years ago classed among the incurable *opprobria* of our art." Similarly it may be said the mortality from *post partum* hæmorrhage has been almost removed, while the throes and pains of labor have been rendered endurable by the employment of comparatively safe anæsthetics. He then referred to the almost universal setting aside of the embryotomic instruments, which a few years ago formed so important a portion of the obstetric outfit, in favor of forceps of various kinds.