

disease a few years since. If now we suppose the sensory nerves of the skin and the muscles to be alone affected, it will at once be seen how great the resemblance to locomotor ataxia becomes. In co-ordination of movement causing Romberg's symptom, with loss of knee jerk and derangement of cutaneous sensibility have even given to this form of the affection the name of pseudo-tubes. If to these symptoms are added the severe pains and gastric derangements common to both diseases, as well as the paralysis of certain ocular muscles in multiple neuritis, the diagnosis between the two diseases becomes correspondingly increased, and is often to be reached only with considerable difficulty.

In conclusion, I would like to add that I believe the diagnosis of multiple neuritis is much less common than the disease itself, a fact which is the more important since the prognosis in this disease is much more hopeful than in the diseases of the spinal cord with which it is confounded.

NOTE.—October 20. Patient has so far recovered as to be able to walk two and a half miles without difficulty, and the muscular power in his arms has correspondingly improved.

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### DAMP CELLARS.

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"The unseen enemy crept in by dead of night."

In a recent discussion as to the stand health officers should take in order to prevent the spread of phthisis and minimize the dangers from the tubercle bacillus, both to those already affected thereby and the public, Dr. Parkes raised the question whether the phthisical patient with the infectious disease on him, or the general unsanitary surroundings was the greater source of danger, and which of these should be attended to first. Dr. Parkes believed that the more readily obtainable results were to be got by attacking the unsanitary surroundings. Now, chief amongst these are damp cellars. Their effect on the general health is bad, and consumptives cannot hope even for the amelioration of their condition let alone cure, if they live in a building with a damp cellar. I say a building, because the condition of the workshop should be attended to just as much as that of the dwellings.

The effects on the system of air from a damp cellar are most insidious. A healthy individual will, after breathing air from a bad cellar for but one month, begin to feel some loss of appetite, a lack of energy, and everything he does will require exertion on his part; and in a very short time the whole system is in just such a weak state as to succumb to any sickness that may be going. It is when the health has been thus pulled down that the worst cases of typhoid, typho-malaria, diphtheria, etc., occur; it is then that an attack of diarrhoea which at another time would last but a few hours, will last days, and even fatal results may happen. The general tone of the system is lost, the patient feels it so, and often takes a change of air which gives immediate improvement; but on returning to the house or workshop where the foul air is, all the good obtained by the change is lost very quickly.

Any cellar that is continuously damp is not a fit place for the storage of foods. Air for food storage cannot be too pure. The organisms of putrefaction which are present in all air near to habitations cannot live in dry air. In California, a carcass will dry up but does not putrefy, the air being so dry that organisms necessary to putrefaction cannot exist there. But in a damp cellar the air, not changed from one week's end