

Two other cases in which atrophy of the nerves had made considerable progress before a similar treatment was adopted did not terminate so favourably. The atrophic process not being arrested, complete loss of vision ensued.

In view of the importance of optic neuritis, both as a symptom and as an affection which often requires to be treated *per se* with as little delay as possible after its existence has once been discovered, I cannot refrain from urging most strongly the propriety of making a careful ophthalmoscopic examination from time to time in all cases of obstinate or persistent headache, and especially if other features in the case render the occurrence of this serious and important lesion a matter of probability. Although, in treating optic neuritis, we must be guided to a great extent, in the choice of the various measures to be employed, by the particular circumstances connected with each case, we have in mercury and iodide of potash two remedies of immense value when properly used, in a large proportion of these cases. If mercury is to be of any service, it must be used with tolerable freedom, and the same holds good of iodide of potash, but admits of being emphasized still more strongly. Without intending to lay down any hard and fast rules, I may say the plan I generally adopt is as follows: Secure physical and mental rest as far as possible by making the patient stay in bed in a quiet, dimly-lighted apartment; carefully regulate the diet. Use mercury, in the form of inunction twice daily, about a drachm of the strong ointment each time. Keep the mouth scrupulously clean, and as soon as the gums show the action of the mercury is unmistakeable, diminish the quantity used just to the extent of keeping up this action and no more; this must be continued from four to six weeks. About the third day of the mercurial inunctions, commence with iodide of potash, say three or four grains for the first dose, and increase by one grain each dose, at the same time increasing the quantity of water in which it is dissolved. A drachm of the salt will require to be dissolved in about a tumblerful of water, otherwise gastric disturbance will be likely to occur. I never stop short of 30 grains three times daily, and have several times given more than two drachms thrice daily for a