

CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

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CASE OF GENERAL PARALYSIS.*

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MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN :

Dr. Baudwy, in his work on Diseases of the Nervous System, says, "Never lose sight of the fact that paralysis is always a *symptom*, never a *disease*. If you always recollect this you will invariably seek to make a correct diagnosis of the cause." Whether this is possible in all cases is a matter of grave doubt. Certain it is that in the case which I will this evening report to the Society I was and am still unable to positively satisfy my own mind as to the pathological condition which was present. As the paralysis was all but entirely motor, sensation being but comparatively little affected, I incline to the belief that the *corpus striatum*, generally recognized by physiologists as the generator of motor power, was the seat possibly of some extravasation which under the influence of the ergot was arrested, and by the iodide of potassium caused to be absorbed. The slight symptoms of impaired sensation which were present may have been due to the sympathy of the *thalamus opticus*, which, as is well known, is most intimately connected with the *corpus striatum*. Of course this is only theory, but, as the patient fortunately completely recovered, it is all I or any one else can offer in explanation.

Archibald Ferguson, aged 21 years, 5 ft. 9½ inches high, weight 132, of spare habit and by trade an engraver, con-

* Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.