

been found and kept under control and the disease checked." In another case of disseminated sclerosis recorded by Dr. Lyon Smith, treated by a vaccine made from the cerebrospinal fluid, the improvement is mentioned as most striking. In *THE LANCET* of September 5th, 1914, Mr. White Robertson in discussing the paths of infection in streptococcal fibrositis from oral sepsis, says that Morse-key paralysis, telegraphist's, writer's and typewriter's ramps, are all instances of streptococcal fibrosites. He insists that the toxæmia has got in its work, as it always does, at the point of overstrain or injury or prolonged fatigue.

If one admits that in the cases so far mentioned there is a septic element, one is tempted to inquire whether this principle obtains in the realm of psychiatry. From an attack of the "blues" cured with a simple dose of calomel, one is led to view melancholia as an exaggerated "blue," but requiring more detailed anti-toxic or anti-bacterial remedies. No one treats insanity without consistent removal of intestinal bacterial products—in other words, without great attention to the daily evacuations. Like the epileptics, most cases of mental disorder present evidences of aspect, colour, odour, perverted secretions, etc., showing the presence of a toxæmic condition. The improvement of the mental condition moves *pari passu* with the improvement in all these matters. So convinced is Mr. White Robertson of this, that in the article above quoted he gives his opinion that all cases in mental hospitals should be thoroughly examined by X-rays and bismuth meals. The road to success in many of these conditions lies in a liberal dietary, which not only enables the weakened and poisoned nervous system to be renovated, but, stimulating nutrition generally, aids in removing toxins from the tissues—and, what is even more important, it prevents intestinal stasis by leaving a large residue which promotes efficient evacuations.

Many cases are known to the writer of melancholia with delusions which have been cured by a course of vaccines after other methods had failed. Two ladies who had had prolonged courses at Harrogate, amongst other therapeutic measures, were cured by the removal of their pyorrhœas by vaccines combined with local surgical measures. A case now under treatment has complete relief for nearly a fortnight after each inoculation, and the interval of relief is gradually lengthening. It is not for a moment contended that for such cases as these spa treatment is unsuitable. On the contrary, as the writer pointed out in his Presidential address in 1912 at the Balneological Section of the R.S.M., spa treatments are eminently useful in all septic conditions when administered in conformance with the principles of bacteriology. In the above cases the failure of the spa treatment was due to the measures being solely directed to the removal of toxins without efficiently removing the