

Under large doses of potassium iodide and mercurialunctions he improved rapidly. In a week he was able to stand and to move his right arm. He was also able to speak, though his memory of both words and events was slow.

Two weeks later he could lift his right arm above his head, and could walk without support.

About the end of July he passed from under my observation for a time, but I saw him again in October and found that he had had no fresh attack. He was able to walk long distances, and had fairly good use of his arms, but he still found difficulty in doing his ordinary work, which was stone-cutting and required considerable dexterity. He said, he sometimes had attacks of dizziness, and in speaking could not always remember the words he wanted as well as before the attack.

As to diagnosis :—The association of aphasia with hemiplegia usually points to some lesion of the left middle cerebral artery. The absence of coma, the gradual onset, and the age of the patient render hæmorrhage unlikely, and indicate rather thrombus, embolus, or syphilitic disease. The rarity of simple thrombus, the absence of any obvious cause for embolus, the gradual onset, the rapid improvement during anti-syphilitic treatment, and the history of syphilis, render syphilitic disease the most likely cause of his symptoms.

I should like to point out here that aphasia occasionally seems to depend on purely functional changes, and, from the peculiar mode of onset in this case, such an idea might have occurred to one before the appearance of the hemiplegia.

That aphasia may be a functional affection is indicated by the fact that lunatics may act as if aphasic for years and suddenly resume the function of speech, and I will relate a case to you that I reported in the General Hospital, in which I believe epileptic fits took the form of temporary attacks of aphasia.

L. McL. was admitted to Dr. Stewart's wards in the General Hospital in November, 1891, complaining of cough, palpitation, and periodic seizures. He was a farmer, married, temperate, had had dysentery and influenza. Since the latter, two years before admission, he had not felt strong.