

us, together with the method of operating. The treatment has been put in practice by Dr. Gilles, who has supervised all the operations and recorded the observations.

In his brochure of 1883, M. Motchoukowsky said he had treated, and considerably improved the condition of, twelve tabetics, and that by the same operative procedure he had re-established the sexual functions of other patients affected with loss of sexual power of nervous origin independent of tabes.

The treatment consists in séances of suspension of a progressive duration of one-half to three minutes (four minutes being the maximum), according to the case, by means of the apparatus employed by Sayre, of New York, in putting on his jacket.

The duration of the suspension is, as we have said, progressive. We begin with half a minute, and increase progressively by about half a minute at each séance. These take place every second day, daily suspension not having given us any better results. As a technical detail, we may add that it is necessary every fifteen or twenty seconds to raise the arms of the patient, so that the traction which is exercised on the vertebral column may be more effective.

We have in this way treated eighteen cases of tabes, furnishing in all about 400 suspensions. Of these eighteen, we must exclude four, who were not suspended more than three times, and who did not return for several reasons, of which the distance and the difficulty of reaching the hospital have been the chief. The other fourteen have experienced in different degrees an improvement, which in eight in particular has been indeed remarkable. Three of them were presented at the lecture on the 15th of January.

We have analyzed in detail the results obtained. We may add that our patients were all undoubted tabetics; the most of them came generally to the Salpêtrière to follow out the treatment of cauterizing along the vertebral column.

At the commencement of the treatment the improvement is almost always in the walk, and on inco-ordination, when it exists. Improvement is experienced from the first. Patients say that soon walking is easier and more certain. This improvement lasts at first only two or three

hours, then, after eight or ten séances, it becomes continuous. The patients stand much more easily; they can walk without assistance, and take pretty long walks, a fact which has been very observable in our patients at the Salpêtrière, who are obliged to come from a distance for treatment, using public conveyances, which very often do not put them down at the hospital gate.

At the end of twenty or thirty séances *Romberg's sign* disappears. In chronological order improvement takes place in the various *bladder troubles* so frequent in tabes, micturition becomes regular and more easy, incontinence disappears, or is considerably lessened, and in some the functions of the bladder are restored to normal.

The *lightning pains* seem equally to be benefited by the treatment; they return at longer intervals; they are considerably decreased, and may even completely disappear. We have an experience of only three months on this subject, yet in this respect the statements of patients have not seemed less emphatic than about the improvement in the other symptoms mentioned above.

Finally, under the influence of suspension, complete impotence, which is so often found in tabes, gives place to sexual desires and erections. It is to be noted that experiments made by M. Onanoff on healthy individuals have proved the influence of this method on the exaggeration of virility.

As a corollary of the phenomena described we may say that the sensation of numbness of the feet is diminished or disappears; in two patients the areas of plantar anaesthesia became again sensitive. In short, the general condition is improved and sleep becomes better, which does not seem to us to be owing solely to the disappearance of the lightning pains. All the patients then, whom we have treated, have experienced improvement in different degrees, the improvement appearing to us to be in proportion to the duration of the treatment.

There has been one exception, a young tabetic thirty-two years of age, with very marked hereditary taints, in whom, in six months, the phenomena of tabes had almost attained their maximum. For the first month there was a marked improvement in the walk and in micturition,