

REFLEX PARALYSIS.

Cases have been met with and recorded by medical men, of paralysis, which the amount of disease present in the nervous centers or coverings in post-mortem examinations did not satisfactorily account for, but which were associated with injuries and diseases of organs remote, and not immediately contiguous to the spinal marrow or the medulla oblongata.

These cases, I believe, are now generally regarded by writers as cases of reflex paralysis. Dr. Brown-Séquard was the first to use this term in his Lectures on the "Diagnosis and Treatment of the Principal Forms of Paralysis of the Lower Extremities," in 1861; and Dr. Jaccoud, in 1864, after objecting to this term, proposed to name this variety of palsy "paralysis from peripheral irritation;" and Dr. Handfield Jones, in the same year, employs the term "inhibitory paralysis" in his "Clinical Observations on Functional Nervous Diseases." Mr. Stanley, in 1834, records cases of paraplegia in which no morbid lesions could be detected in the cerebro-spinal axis, but where gonorrhœa, or diseases of the bladder, or renal affections had existed. Romborg, Graves, Rayer, Spencer Wells, and many others, from time to time, have recorded similar cases, showing that paralysis of remote parts may be associated with, and follow as an effect of renal disease, disease of the uterus, dysmenorrhœa, metritis, irritation from worms, teething, carious teeth, etc. If you scratch a pimple, the itching sensation is thrown to other and distant points, a homely but forcible illustration of the principles now under consideration.

But it is now my desire to briefly call attention to a variety of reflex palsy first spoken of by Drs. S. Weir Mitchell, George R. Moorehouse, and W. W. Keon, of Philadelphia, in 1864, which results suddenly from mechanical injuries, particularly gun-shot wounds: "for example: a wound involving the muscles of the right thigh, followed by reflected paralysis of the right arm and left leg; a wound of the right thigh, causing paralysis of the right arm; a wound of the right chesticle, followed by paralysis of the right anterior tibial muscle and peroneus longus; a wound of the external part of the left thigh, producing anæsthesia and