

profusely, only to be replaced by others as soon as a new epidermis formed. The axillæ presented a condition of moist eczema, being chafed and excoriated by the slightest movement of the arms, contrasting strongly with the dry scurfy eruption upon the body, and, to cap the climax, severe double iritis, which had been looked for, set in towards the end of the month of August. It was soon controlled, however, by instillations of an 8% solution of atropine. On the 2nd of September, Mr. A—, complained of a sensation as of "pins and needles" in the limbs, and had sudden, convulsive jerks, which he attributed to a sensation of coldness, whereupon implication of the cord was suspected, and verified the next week by an almost complete loss of power in both lower extremities, paraplegia setting in with great rapidity.

He was unable to void his urine, and the catheter had to be passed twice a day. The fæces were passed involuntarily while in bed, adding to the unfortunate patient's misery, the mind being clear up to this time.

Mr. A— was now sinking so rapidly that during the last week in September he was removed to the hospital at Medicine Hat, where he became delirious and died three days later. No *post-mortem* was held, and the cause of death, as entered on the hospital books was cerebro-spinal meningitis. The strange features of this case were, the rapidity of the course of the disease (three months), the inefficacy of the usual treatment, and the strange character of the eruption, there existing at the same time a condition of pemphigus on the palms and soles, pityriasis of the trunk, with a moist eczema of the axillæ and inside of thighs. The patient informed us that two brothers had died in India, from some skin affection, the nature of which he was in ignorance of, so that there may have existed some idiosyncrasy which would account for the virulence of the attack. I have purposely omitted speaking of the treatment, which consisted of the usual remedies, suggested by the medical men who saw the patient in consultation. Nothing, however, even for a moment, held the disease in check.

Having mislaid the notes of the case, taken at the time, this account is naturally incomplete in some details, but will serve to bring before the minds of the profession the often overlooked fact, that syphilis not infrequently ends fatally, and that

it behoves us to try and have proper laws passed for the protection of the community from this hidden plague.

THE TRIENNIAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

The Second Triennial Congress has come and gone, and has been, on the whole, a decided success. It is a question whether those having charge of the arrangements did wisely in selecting Washington as a place of meeting. The chief claim seems to have been that it was almost equally inaccessible to all, which, paradoxical as it may sound, is an advantage when the "effete" East, and the "howling" West are wildly contending for expositional spoils.

A meeting presided over by so distinguished a man as Wier Mitchell, could not fail to obtain the respect of the profession everywhere, nor was public confidence misplaced. Dr. Mitchell's address was a model of elegance, erudition and laborious research. Professor Pepper, of Philadelphia, made an efficient chairman of executive committee, and was ably seconded by Dr. Carmalt, of New Haven, as secretary. The invited guests of the Congress were limited in number, and were—Sir William MacCormac, Dr. Wm. Ord, Mr. Thomas Bryant, Mr. Arthur Durham, and Mr. Reginald Harrison, London; Dr. W. T. Gairdner, Glasgow; Prof. John Chiene, and Dr. Batty Tuke, Edinburgh; Prof. Cunningham, Dublin; Dr. G. Sterling Ryerson, Toronto, Canada; Dr. Beely, Berlin, Germany; and Dr. Hoffa, Wurzburg. The meeting was characterized by an absence of the professional *Medical-Association fiend*, owing probably to the entire absence of outside amusements. Good, solid, scientific work was consequently done. The discussions were of a high class, and the papers rather above the average. There was but one serious drawback—the overpowering tropical heat of Washington, rendering sleep a reminiscence and a clean boiled collar an impossibility. In other respects the Second Triennial Congress will long remain in the affectionate remembrance of its members.