

were fully reported ; they fall under their respective heads as follows: (1) cases in which the symptoms commenced to abate immediately after injection, and then steadily disappeared, nine ; (2) those which remained *in statu quo* for a short time after injection, and then gradually improved, six ; (3) those in which no further muscles became involved in spasms after commencement of treatment, though occasionally an aggravation of certain other symptoms (as trismus and difficulty in swallowing) occurred, two ; and (4) those ending fatally, notwithstanding treatment, five. Space does not permit of a detailed notice of the cases, but, in spite of the unfavorable result of the case treated in the Staffordshire General Infirmary, he has come to the following conclusion ; there is no doubt that the antitoxic serum has a favorable effect in certain cases of tetanus, and those not always of the mildest form. This serum may be justly called a remedy for the disease of such importance that up to the present time no other method of treatment can bear comparison with it. Mawson thinks, therefore, that the antitoxin serum is destined considerably to decrease the mortality in tetanic cases.

Washbourne also calls attention in the *British Medical Journal* to Kantnach's statistic in the *Medical Chronicle*, and from these it would appear that the treatment is useless in acute cases with a short incubation period and rapid onset of spasms, while the chronic cases, with long incubation period and slow onset of spasms, often recover ; but this latter class of cases frequently do well with other methods of treatment. A definite opinion cannot be formed until a much more extensive trial has been given to the remedy. It must be remembered that in tetanus there is no characteristic lesion at the spot of infection, and a diagnosis is only arrived at when the disease is far advanced ; consequently, treatment is commenced at a late stage, and analogy with the experiments conducted upon animals renders the prospect of success not very hopeful.

Further instructive information on this topic is presented by Howlett, who tells us in the *British Medical Journal* that, although it is very difficult to arrive at an accurate idea of the proportion of cases which pass to a fatal issue, he has, by careful comparison of the statistics from various sources, come to the conclusion that the mortality may be stated at somewhere about seventy-five per cent. Now, as to the antitoxin treatment, Howlett, collected statistics of sixty-one cases treated with antitoxin, with twenty-two deaths, giving a mortality of only thirty-six per cent. There are however, several fallacies to be guarded against. There is always a tendency to publish successful cases only. Although it is stated that the Italians have suppressed fatal cases, we do not think that this source of error would materially influence the result, for, being a new treatment, it is probable that the greater number of cases have been published. There are, however, other fallacies, notably : (1) that a favorable result was independent of the antitoxin