

without delay ; and even if the disease is not specific, the use of mercury and of iodide of potassium can do no harm.

The prognosis is not always favorable even in cases of gum mata, whilst myelitis and tabes are not affected by antisiphilitic remedies. It must be remembered that gummata are apt to rapidly cause destruction of the nerve tissue, and in such cases permanent damage will result. Then, again, there seems to be cases in which specific remedies lose their effect.

In treatment, the cases which have come under my observation have invariably had mercurial inunctions, with iodide of potassium internally in doses of from ten to thirty grains or more three times daily. Although mercury may not always be necessary, it seems by far the best practice to administer it, as it is admitted that the iodide alone may fail. Dr. Gowers recommends the iodide to be given for not longer than six to ten weeks, stating that it can do all it is capable of in that time, and that a longer continuance may be harmful or render the subject insusceptible to its influence.

Three cases which have come under my observation may be quoted to illustrate some of the phases of syphilitic spinal disease.

CASE I.—Mrs. M., aged 32, came to the Montreal Dispensary in June, 1888, complaining of headache, double vision, and weakness. The woman had been married for eight years to a dissolute husband, and had had two children and one miscarriage. Three years previously she had a cutaneous eruption, and last summer sores on the face and leg.

*Examination.*—The patient is anæmic and thin. There are pigmented scars on the knees and toward the lower end of the left leg, which were looked upon as undoubtedly syphilitic. There were also five or six round and non-pigmented scars on the face. She was ordered ten grains of iodide of potassium, and returned in a month with symptoms relieved, and was then ordered to take a mixture of bichloride of mercury and iodide for some months. This, however, she failed to do.

This woman was next seen in January, 1889, when she returned with a marked ataxic gait. On enquiry, she stated that