

pated, that the faculty of articulate language can be regarded as an indivisible entity, having a specific organ in sole command. The anatomio-physiological method of analysis, is the only satisfactory basis of enquiry in this compound subject. Since the days of Hippocrates the phenomenon, aphasia, was known and described in a certain sense. The more carefully we enquire into the peculiarities of each case, the more we observe the diversified character which surrounds, and complicates the precise point of nervous disturbance, at fault. Hence the difficulty of specific terms, such as aphasia; alalia; (dyslalia, disordered speech); dysphonia, alterations in the quality of voice, &c. As examples bearing on this interesting subject, I shall cite the three following cases:

CASE I.—Mr. H. V., æt. 53 years, married, and a family of four children; thin conformation of body; has enjoyed tolerably good health excepting a few attacks of rheumatism, since 1863; of a modified character, and never complicated with either endo-or pericarditis. In 1860 had an attack of partial loss of speech, in which there was chiefly a thickness of articulation, although not entire loss of power. This condition continued fully an hour, when complete ability to articulate returned, followed by a confused feeling about the head for fully two days, when work was resumed as usual. At the onset of the attack the prostration was such as to render the task of making out the way from his mill to the house, near at hand, somewhat difficult. April 15, 1881, was again seized with dizziness and imperfect vision, followed by almost entire suspension of the power of speech; only a word or two on any point could be pronounced at the one time, although the brain was apparently cognizant of what was passing on around. This attack lasted about twelve hours, during all of which time there was unusual excitability of the whole nervous system and comparative inability to sleep. No paralysis whatever of any other portion of the body, and throughout the other movements of the tongue and lips were regular, and deglutition and respiration quite normal. Two weeks previous to attack, received a severe saw wound in the hand, necessitating the removal of the little finger, otherwise, there was no apparent cause. Has been a constant slave to tobacco. At present as well as usual, enjoying normal functional activity. In this case it is evident there was but a partial disorder

of co-ordination of the movements required for the articulation of sounds, glosso-ataxy, but deglutition was not interfered with, although the motor element in the function of deglutition, and those controlling the articulation of sounds, are closely allied at their origin, in the medulla oblongata. Thus, we observe how clinical facts point out a duality of power more conservative than conflicting, and not unlikely in this particular case, rendered defective in the speech sense, by the accumulative toxic effects of nicotine.

From the low asthenic state of the system, and evidently defective blood supply to the nerve centres, a stimulating method of treatment was adopted, which was productive of the most beneficial results.

CASE II.—J. G., æt. 55, of strong conformation of body, and in excellent health generally, except in 1875, when an attack of acute hepatitis supervened, however, of short duration. Never had acute rheumatism, although the family history points in that direction; always active and energetic in life, and possessed of well-developed physical power. In May, 1861, without any apparent cause, or even premonitory indication, there quite suddenly developed a slightly defective power of speech, which only lasted a short time and passed away without leaving even a trace of defective nerve power. In March, 1880, an unaccountable degree of drowsiness was observed during the discharge of ordinary business duties, which, however, attracted no particular attention. March 16th, 1880, during the night awoke suddenly and found inability to speak, or even articulate a word distinctly, still there continued an ability to move and protrude the tongue, and although apparently conscious, the ideas could not even be communicated intelligently, by writing. After a lapse of six hours the power of speech returned, which appeared to be materially aided by a full bleeding from the arm. Has always been a moderate liver, and never troubled with indigestion or its consequences. Since that date he has enjoyed very fair health, and the only noticeable fact, is an occasional disposition to drowsiness, even although sleep had been ample and composed during the night. Never experienced any injury about the head or body, and in fact was never subject to any illness whatever, beyond the above, and the hepatic attack specified. Had no difficulty in swallowing,