

treated by cauterization along the spine. Improvement in walking, at first temporary, but becoming continuous, took place after eight or ten suspensions. The patients could then stand more easily and walk without assistance. After twenty or thirty suspensions Romberg's symptom disappeared. Vesical troubles were relieved, lightning pains diminished and even disappeared, and there was a return of sexual desire and capacity. Anæsthetic and other sensory disturbances also disappeared, and general improvement set in. One patient had a return of lightning pains whilst being treated, but subsequently again underwent improvement, which in all the rest was uninterrupted. In no case did the knee-jerk return, or the pupil reaction become normal. M. Charcot considers that though at present the treatment is in the experimental stage, yet the results are encouraging.*

Professors Eulenberg and Mendel report† equally favorable results. The suspensions, which took place three times a week, being at first of one minute's duration, then increasing by half a minute up to three minutes. About twenty patients have been thus treated, and with the following results: 1. A certain number of patients have, immediately after the suspension, a readier and freer gait, less staggering, and complain less of lancinating pains (in some also improvement was noted in visual symptoms). 2. No ill effects followed the suspension.‡

After all it is well to follow the advice of the Greek sage and to hasten slowly, especially when therapeutic measures of a sensational kind are in question. The *Lancet* of the 16th March sounds an alarm. "Try it with caution and proceed with sceptical judgment." Remember the natural history of the disease and do not forget the cases in which temporary improvement took place when no treatment at all was practised. In tabes, as well as in other spinal cord diseases, inexplicable pauses in the course of the disease are known to occur, sometimes to an extent sufficient to lead one to suppose that their progress took

* *Lancet*, Jan. 26th, 1889.

† *Berliner Klin. Woch.*, No. 8, quoted in the *Lancet*.

‡ A full description of M. Charcot's cases is to be found in the *Progrès Medical*, Feb. 23rd, 1889.