

urrent arrested convulsions by diminishing the flex irritability of the cord. The brain and cord could be acted upon by a very weak current, that could be used in perfect safety. Again there was probably another means of curing tetanus, that of maintaining artificial respiration. (See Dr. Neftel's remarks on Dr. Peters' paper, Nov. 6.) As to the cause of death in this disease, although it often happened from asphyxia, yet, apart from this, there was an increase of bodily temperament to a point incompatible with life.

Dr. Dewees remarked that to effect artificial respiration in a tetanic patient held by what he termed "the anaconda spasm," was simply impossible. In his view the great danger in tetanus arose from the fixation of the muscles of respiration, so that, as he said in his paper, tracheotomy would be useless.

Dr. Post spoke of the frequency of tetanus at the eastern extremity of Long Island. He understood that some of the domestic animals there suffered from it. Two causes had been suggested—one that it was due to the extensive use of fish for manure, filling the air of that region with the odor of putrefaction; the other that it was dependent in some way on the constant intermarriages between the same families.

Dr. C. F. Taylor had been told that the tetanus endemic in that region was confined to quite narrow limits, and that it was most rife in summer and autumn, when if any of the residents received an injury, they deemed it prudent to leave the place for a time.

Dr. Farnham and Dr. Dewees said that the same endemic tendency was noticed in many other places where fish was used for manure—on Staten Island, for example.

Dr. Carroll had spent many summers on Long Island, and thought this tendency prevailed along its whole south shore. It seemed to have been favorably modified by the law forbidding the use of fish as manure. All the cases he had seen were traumatic, chiefly among boatmen who had cut their feet with oyster-shells.

Dr. I. E. Taylor remarked that Sir Benjamin Brodie denied the existence of idiopathic tetanus.

Dr. Carroll related a fatal case that appeared to be purely idiopathic.

Dr. Post had attended a similar one; but doubtless many of the so-called idiopathic cases were merely hysterical.

Dr. Dewees remarked, as an important diagnostic point, that while in tetanoid cases you may often have disturbance of the intellect, you do not get this in true tetanus until towards the close, from uremia and exhaustion.

Dr. Peaslee had supposed that the fact that tetanus may be idiopathic was long since established. Fifteen years ago he had a case of typhoid fever, which showed nothing remarkable till tetanus set in, fatal in two days; mind perfectly clear. He had heard that Long Island tetanus was often idiopathic, and commonly easy to cure, yielding readily to stimulants. He thought we should not call a case traumatic unless there had been a scratch within a month.

Dr. Dewees said that in one of the worst cases of hydrophobia he had ever seen, the disease lay dor-

mant for two years and a quarter; and yet during the attack the wounded spot began to ulcerate. Look at syphilis.

Dr. O. A. White, in a large experience at the South, had found idiopathic tetanus more prevalent on the sea-shore than inland, and more among the negroes than the whites. The negroes were very fond of fish.—*Medical Record*.

The Climate of Laramie Valley.

To the Editor of The Medical Record.

SIR,—The constantly increasing number of patients who come under our observation every year suffering from *rose cold* or *hay fever*, has turned the attention of medical men to those localities in which it does not exist. Hitherto the sea-coast, or some of the islands in the northern lakes, have constituted almost the only places of refuge from this annoying affection. Since the opening of the Pacific Railroad many inquiries have been made about the influence of the climate of the high table-lands which lie between Nebraska and Salt Lake on this disease, and I therefore take the liberty of laying before your readers the following extracts from a letter written by Dr. H. Latham, of Wyoming Territory:—"The Laramie Valley is situated at an altitude of 7,100 feet above the sea. It is on both sides of a pure rapid mountain stream, fed by the melting snows of the Snowy Range. The Black Hills bound the valley on the east, rising to the altitude of 2,000 feet above it. On the south and west is the great Snowy Range, at a distance of thirty miles, rising 7,000 or 8,000 feet above it. The hills and mountains are covered with short grasses, while higher up on their sides pines and other ever-greens grow. The valley is covered with short grass throughout its whole breadth. The hills, mountain sides and valleys are alike dry. The soil is a light sandy loam, and the wash of the mountains has little or no vegetable deposit. I do not know of a square rod of marsh in the territory. The grasses finished their growth and ripened during June, until which time they wore a deep green, but now (Aug. 6th), owing to the absence of rain and the dry character of the soil, they are far advanced in curing—so much so as to give a rich straw-coloring to plain and hill-side. On the mountain, hill-side and valley I do not know of a sandy place where the air can stir up any fine dust. The temperature is mild, and the air exceedingly dry. In both particulars—temperature and humidity—it is equable—more so, I think, than any other region on this continent. In proof of this, I enclose meteorological notes for July. During four years' experience, I have never seen a case of asthma or hay fever. Of all the supposed causes of this last troublesome disease, I cannot see a single one in our soil, climate or vegetation. I have, however, never met a case brought here as a test. * * I can only give my opinion, and say that I know of no reason why there should not be complete immunity from hay fever in these mountains. So far as the question of the adaptability of this climate to the wants of those who are suffering from debility in any form and from any cause, I answer unhesitatingly that it has no equal in America during the summer months."