

the mental or the physical symptoms of paresis have antecedence. It is my belief that the uncertainty presented in this relation has arisen mainly from defective observance, or unskillful appreciation of the germinal manifestations of *mental* unsoundness.

No doubt it not unfrequently happens, that an experienced alienist may, from the observance of some physical impairment, which has escaped the notice of others, detect the presence of paresis, even before the patient's nearest relatives or most intimate friends have suspected the incubation of mental disease; but considering how reluctant we all are to *believe* that which we do not *wish* to be true, we must not be surprised to find that the early aberrations of the insane are regarded, rather in any other light than the only true one. It would seem that we prefer to regard our endeared afflicted ones, rather as culpable moral delinquents, than as the innocent victims of tyrannous disease. Not unfrequently it happens, among a certain class of short-cut logicians, that the devil is blamed for many bad deeds and words, of which he is totally innocent. Poor old wretch. The annals of medicine prove that he has been the most flagitiously traduced reptile that ever crawled about in search of lost legs.

The first observable physical, and reliable pathognomonic symptom of paresis, is that peculiar blunting of speech articulation, or tongue-lameness, which so closely resembles the thickened utterance of drunk persons, as very often to be mistaken for it, and which I have had frequent opportunities of discovering, has led to error in assignment of the cause of the disease.

In some cases, even in an advanced stage, this muscular defect is but slightly observable; whilst in others, even at the outset, it is so manifest as to be detected even by the most casual interlocutor. Concurrently, perhaps, with this defect, though not unfrequently of later incidence, there may be detected a paretic irregularity in the gait, which is best observed by causing the patient to walk at some distance before us. It will then be seen that the muscular power in one leg is comparatively enfeebled, and that the foot comes down somewhat precipitately. This peculiarity in locomotion is, by an experienced observer, as readily detected by the ear, in the dark, as by the eye in broad day. There is, however, at present a res-

pectable paretic in the Toronto asylum, whose speech articulation is as badly impaired as I have seen it in some cases advanced in the third stage, and yet his locomotive co-ordination is as normal as it probably ever was. How long it will remain so, I would not venture to predict, for some day he may have an epileptiform seizure, and hardly after that, will he walk as squarely as he now does. This patient's amnesia is very marked.

Perhaps, in a diagnostic point of view, no symptom is more significant than increased keenness of appetite, though in some cases, this exaggeration of alimentive function may not be manifested before the commencement of the second stage, and in some it may not, if we are to believe all that is written, appear at all. I may here note that in the excellent monograph on General Paralysis, written about 20 years ago, by Dr. Austin, of the *Bethnal House*, a private institution, receiving, probably, only the wealthier class of patients, I have not found the symptom of morbid gastric activity mentioned. May it have been, that as Englishmen are usually big eaters, this fact may have escaped observance?

I can assure you, gentlemen, that I have had under my care, not a few paretics who were magnificent feeders, and I may add, with, as I trust, a good conscience, that I never stinted them. There was a time when insanity of every type, was treated by low diet, and short allowance even of that, but thank God, that day is now past; and surely, when we well know that paresis will not be cured by any course of treatment, and that paretics live as long, or far longer, when well fed, than when half-starved, and when we know, also, that to them short allowance means unspeakable torment, and full feeding is their *most*, if not their *only*, delectable fore-taste of Heaven, it would be nothing short of stupid cruelty to deny them the only comfort their sad condition permits them to enjoy. Never can I forget one noble wreck, who, erewhile, had been a keen sportsman, and was accordingly a great lover of duck. Duck had become his gastronomic beau-ideal; and when at last kind nature cheated into complacency his artistic palate, he had but one name for every viand presented to him, and that name was *duck*, and for long weeks before his exit, *duck* was the one sole word he could utter. Tom Moore has told us that "the vase in which roses has once