# ON THE USE OF CERTAIN NEW CHEMICAL TESTS IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF GENERAL PARALYSIS AND TABES.*

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The diagnosis of general paralysis of the insane is for two reasons a more important matter than the diagnosis of most forms of insanity. On the one hand, thanks to the clinical observations of Pilcz, Kraepelin, and a host of other workers, with the pathological researches of Nissl and Alzheimer, we have a clearer picture and more exact knowledge of the course and nature of the disease than about almost any other psychosis, so that we can foretell what events are likely to occur in it, and take measures to guard against them. On the other hand, the prognosis is more fatal and the lethal termination more rapidly reached than in any other form of insanity, so that it is important to recognise the condition as soon as possible, and to get the patient's affairs arranged on the basis of that knowledge. Although in a pronounced case the clinical picture is one of the sharpest in the whole of medicine, yet in an early or non-typical case the difficulties in diagnosis are often exceedingly great. So much is this the case, that it is found in asylum practice that the majority of the patients are admitted either with an erroneous diagnosis, or else comparatively late in the course of the disease. Hence the additions to our knowledge that of late years have accrued from a study of the cerebro-spinal fluid in the disease have been

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