

### The Trinity Medical Alumni Association.\*

(APRIL 4TH, 1895.)

*President, DR. G. A. BINGHAM, in the chair.*

**A Few Notes on Cerebro-Spinal Pathology**, by Dr. DANIEL CLARK, was the first paper presented. It referred to the advances made in the way of pathological inquiry during the last fifty years. Nasse, in 1840, discovered the change in character of nerve structure after injury. Walter, ten years later, showed that regeneration to the normal never occurred, and as a consequence function could never again be perfect. This was important as bearing on the prognosis of insanity. The essayist then discussed the question of nerve influence on nutrition—the trophic centres. If these are diseased various symptoms ensue connected with the skin, muscles and joints. It was striking what a small injury to certain insane will produce ecchymosis. Metastasis in disease was no doubt due to changes following mal-nutrition of the great nerve centres. The nervous condition antedated the pathological change in the supra-renal capsules. Many diseases, formerly attributed to impurity of the blood, now were known to be due to nerve depreciation. The abnormalities in the nerve structures in a number of diseases were then detailed. The fact that morbid processes wherever found are in essence identical and depend much on nerve influence and blood supply, has tended to abolish the specifics of empirics, and to the use of those agents which supply material to the system for upbuilding the depraved tissues. The relation of systemic diseases was dwelt upon. Many diseases could be traced to nutritive derangements of the sympathetic or spinal centres. The study of zoo-chemistry was important. The amyloid material, so often found, was explained as a *degeneration from cerebrin*.

**The Antitoxine Treatment of Diphtheria.**—This was the subject of an address by Dr. CHAS. SHEARD. The apparatus for cultivating bacteria and for preparing the serum, the different varieties of serum and the needle used for injecting it were shown. He described the method of making cultures and of obtaining the antitoxine. He had observed its action in twelve cases which had been bacteriologically diagnosed diphtheria. There was a mortality of twenty-five per cent. From his experience with it, and with the results of the use of Koch's tuberculin in mind, he did not feel in a position to pronounce upon its value

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